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**Israeli warplanes fly over Beirut**  
BEIRUT (AFP) — Israeli warplanes flew at low altitude over Beirut late Monday provoking anti-aircraft fire and panic among the population, military officials said. Inhabitants of Jounieh, 20 kilometres north of the capital, told AFP they saw Israeli aircraft fly over Beirut port and fire radar-deceiving chaff. The aircraft also dropped flares to light up the coast south of Beirut to Sidon, 40 kilometres further south, military officials said. Meanwhile Israeli helicopters flew over regions of South Lebanon facing the Jewish state's self-declared "security zone." Security officials said a surface-to-air SAM-7 missile was fired at a helicopter from the southern town of Nabatieh without hitting its target. The Israeli show of force came after Hezbollah guerrillas killed a pro-Israeli militiaman in a bomb attack in South Lebanon Monday. Military officials in occupied Jerusalem said a bomb exploded as a patrol of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia drove along a road in the occupied zone. Israeli aircraft retaliated by carrying out mock raids over the Iqlim Al Tuffah hills, a Hezbollah stronghold, and flew at low altitude over other regions of South Lebanon, Lebanese police said.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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**Afghan faction threatens Scud attacks**  
KABUL (R) — A Shi'ite Muslim faction threatened on Tuesday to launch Scud missiles against Afghan government forces if they did not stop their two-day-old assault on its enclave in southwestern Kabul. Abdul Ali Mazari, the leader of the Shi'ite Hezb-e-Wahdat faction, told Reuters he had sent a message to his ally, northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, asking for help in using the medium-range rockets. "We have 20 Scuds and three launchers, and today I sent a message to Gen. Dostum asking for technicians to come and help me set the rockets up," he said at his headquarters at Kabul's Karte Seh district, which is under attack. Mr. Rabbani's troops kept up the attack for a second straight day Tuesday. At least 30 died and 90 were injured in the fighting, according to government radio. Other factions in the multi-sided civil war are just outside the capital, including the Taliban student militia, considered the second most powerful force after the president's army. The Taliban have not been involved in the latest fighting. Kabul Radio reported Tuesday night that at least 30 civilians were killed and 90 injured during the day when Hezb-e-Wahdat fired rockets into residential areas.

**King visits GHQ**  
AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Tuesday visited the General Headquarters and met the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Abdul Hafez Miral. Attending the meeting were the commander of the ground forces and Gen. Miral's assistants.

**Crown Prince meets Australian minister**  
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan conferred in his office Tuesday with John McCarthy, Australia's deputy secretary of foreign affairs and trade, and discussed Jordanian-Australian relations and the Amman economic summit scheduled to be held in October. Prince Hassan also briefed Mr. McCarthy on the Middle East peace process. After the meeting Mr. McCarthy left for Damascus.

**Queen to address Copenhagen meeting**  
AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor left for Copenhagen on Tuesday to deliver an address on Thursday at a conference on "Reclaiming the Civil Society in the Global South" organised by the Centre for the Study of the Global South of the American University of Washington. The meeting is held on the sidelines of the U.N. Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen. Queen Noor, who is president of the centre, was seen by His Majesty King Hussein. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Princess Rania Al Abdullah, Chief Chamberlain Princess Ra'ed Ben Zeid and Princess Maja, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and the Danish ambassador in Amman.

**Princess Basma meets Ghali**  
COPENHAGEN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Tuesday met with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and conveyed to him the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and appreciation of his role in enhancing social justice and development concepts in the world. Mr. Ghali thanked Princess Basma for Jordan's distinguished participation in the U.N. Summit on World Development, which opened in Copenhagen Monday, and commended the Princess' active participation in international development and humanitarian activities.

**Sharif Zaid to head team to Cairo talks**  
AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet on Tuesday decided to form the Kingdom's delegation to the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee which will be held in the third week of March in Cairo. The delegation will be headed by Minister Sharif Zaid and will include several ministers. The cabinet also approved Jordan's participation in the settings of the Arab League economic and Social Organization, which will be held in Jiro March 11. The delegation will be headed by Minister Ali Ragheb. The Council of Ministers decided also to set a delegation which will represent Jordan at a Non-aligned Movement meeting in Indonesia April 24. The delegation will be headed by Minister Abdulrim Al Kabarti.

**Immigrants kill U.N. official in Algiers**  
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Immigrants shot and killed a U.N. official in Algeria's capital Tuesday after he resisted their attempt to hijack his car, a U.N. spokesman said. Oussini, an Algerian who was deputy head of the U.N. Information Centre in Algiers, was killed as he left on his way to work, spokesman Joe Sills

## Meeting on displaced falls short of expectations

### Israel rejects Arab calls for speedy moves towards repatriation, insists on own scenario

### Committee set up to define eligibility, criteria, determine numbers and work on modalities

By Ghadeer Taber  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The first Arab-Israeli meeting on the key issue of repatriating Palestinians displaced in the 1967 war ended here on Tuesday with the Arab side openly expressing disappointment that Israel was refusing to commit itself to agreeing to a mechanism for the return home of the Palestinians who were forced out of their homes 28 years ago. Except an agreement to establish a committee to meet regularly to work out differences, the meeting produced little else in tangible progress towards resolving one of the thorniest issues in the Arab-Israeli process. "I believe that the outcome was below the level of expectations," Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told reporters after several hours

of closed-door talks with his Israeli and Egyptian counterparts, Shimon Peres and Amr Musa respectively, and senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Nabil Shaath. "I hope the forthcoming meetings will move in the right direction of establishing the right of return of the displaced under the provisions of international law and the agreements signed with the Arab parties," said Mr. Kabariti. The four ministers concluded their one-day meeting with a final communiqué setting up two committees — one which would meet at the ministerial level and another at the expert level to tackle the complex issues. The final communiqué omitted any reference to international law or United Nations Security Council Resolution 237, which calls for

the repatriation of Palestinians who fled their homeland as a result of the 1967 war. The final communiqué also failed to mention the "right of return" instead using the term "modalities of admission." According to observers, the omission of these two points was a victory for Israel, which apparently succeeded in blocking their inclusion in the statement. Dr. Shaath deplored "Israel's refusal to decide concrete measures in the framework of mutual confidence-building measures." Dr. Shaath told reporters he had hoped Israel would announce the immediate return of even around 100 displaced "as proof of its good will." Dr. Shaath, a veteran Palestinian negotiator with

Israel, told reporters that the Palestinian side had expected the Israeli approach to the meeting. "Our peace process with Israel so far has faced Israeli resistance on everything related to resolutions 242 and 338," Dr. Shaath said. "So this was no different from the typical Israeli behaviour." Looking somber after the session, Mr. Peres admitted that the meeting had failed to produce concrete results. He renewed Israel's commitment to settling the issue of displaced Palestinians, but said any solution would have to take into account "measures that are necessary to avoid the disruption and the disorder in the territories." According to officials at the meeting, Israel refused to accept a PLO request to accept the immediate return



His Majesty King Hussein with the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and Jordan and a senior representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation at a lunch he hosted for them at the Hashemiyeh Palace on Tuesday (Petra photo)

## King underlines need for serious, relentless efforts for just peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday emphasised the need for all parties to the Middle East peace process to exert serious and relentless efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Speaking at a lunch he hosted at Al Hashemiyeh

palace in honour of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, Palestine and Jordan, who met here to discuss the fate of Palestinians displaced by the 1967 war, King Hussein said that all Arab parties involved in the peace process were fully committed to the process and they strive to attain peace for the benefit of all

the peoples in the region. He said that the Arab parties were seeking stability and the resumption of the development process to pave the ground for a better, secure and prosperous future for the coming generations. Attending the lunch were (Continued on page 7)

## King to visit U.S. this month

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein plans to visit Washington this month for talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton on the Middle East peace process, Jordanian-American relations and the Kingdom's quest for U.S. aid, official sources said Tuesday. They said no definite date was set for the visit. Although March 24 had been suggested as a possible date, the actual timing would depend on the schedule of Mr. Clinton, they said. It was not immediately clear whether the King would also undergo a periodic medical check-up at the Mayo Clinic, where he underwent surgery in 1992. A report from Washington said the meeting could take place on March 27. Among the topics the King is expected to discuss with the president and other senior officials of the administration are the status of the Middle East peace process, the developments in the Jordanian-Israeli track after the two countries signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26 and Amman's concern over recent moves in the U.S. Congress that have

raised questions on the fate of Washington's pledge to help the Kingdom achieve economic development compatible with the state of peace in the region. A House of Representatives sub-committee recently slashed to \$50 million an administration request for \$275 million in outlay to write off up to \$483 million in outstanding Jordanian official debts to the U.S. The cutback was heavily criticised in Jordan and by Israeli leaders. The King has made no public comment on the issue. In Washington, a senior administration official said Monday the Clinton administration was determined to ensure debt forgiveness to Jordan which was promised by President Clinton last summer before Jordan signed its peace treaty with Israel in October. "It is taking up a great amount of time," of various elements within the administration, he stressed. The administration approach to the debt write-off to Jordan is that the Clinton White House is committed to the full cancellation of the Kingdom's debts and that it would find some mechanism

to reverse the sub-committee reduction when the proposal reaches the full Senate and perhaps a caucus between the Senate and the House of Representatives. However, the expected debt write-off is only part of the Jordanian concern, officials say. They point out that the administration was requesting only \$43 million in military and economic aid to Jordan in the draft budget for fiscal 1996. In July, Jordan submitted a request to the U.S. for an annual economic and military assistance of \$2.5 billion for the next 10 years. While President Clinton did not make a definite commitment on the actual aid, he has clearly said since then that Washington was committed to meeting Jordan's economic and military needs, a pledge he also renewed during an address to the Jordanian Parliament on Oct. 26. Also expected to be reviewed in Washington are preparations for the Amman economic summit to be held in October and a proposal to set up a Middle East regional development bank. The U.S. has already pledged \$75 million as its contribution to the capital of the bank, but that is

a far cry from a proposed \$5 billion capital. The background for the King's talks with President Clinton is expected to be set when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visits Jordan next week for a brief stay as part of his efforts to jump-start the stalled Syrian-Israeli negotiations and seek to give a fresh impetus to the troubled Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process. The topics of immediate concern to Jordan are also expected to be discussed with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, who will be visiting the Kingdom on March 21. Mr. Gore serves as a key advisor to President Clinton and his tour of the Middle East this month is seen as a message of continued American commitment to the regional peace process under the Democrat president despite moves in the Republican-dominated Congress that are interpreted as turning the U.S. away towards domestic concerns. The King last visited the U.S. in July, when he and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the declaration that eventually led to the peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

## Russians repulsed in Gudermes

SHALI (AFP) — Russian forces have been repulsed in their first attempts to launch an assault on Chechnya's second city of Gudermes, Chechen military commanders claimed Tuesday. Russian forces meanwhile admitted that fighting continued in the capital Grozny, a day after Moscow claimed its troops had finished mopping up the last elements of resistance there. The Chechen officers said Russian forces who for several weeks have maintained positions close to Gudermes, 40 kilometres east of Grozny, began to push forward on Sunday but have been forced back to their original lines in the past two days. According to their account, which could not be independently confirmed, the Russians on Sunday advanced on the village of Dzhalga between Gudermes and Argun, attempting to cut off Gudermes from the rest of the rebel-held territory in the east of the breakaway republic. But the offensive, involving 150 tanks and armoured vehicles, was repulsed and the Russians had returned to shelling Gudermes and Argun, which lies 15 kilometres east of Grozny, from their original positions, the Chechen commanders said. Aslan Maskhadov, the head of forces loyal to secessionist President Dzhokhar Dudayev, told AFP: "Gudermes, Argun and Shali. They have to take these three towns and no doubt they will try again in the next few days. But we have no intention of letting them do it." On the other side of the province, Russian forces continued bombarding the rebel stronghold of Bamut and the key town of Achkhoy-Martan, 40 kilometres west of the capital, on Tuesday. Russian forces admitted Tuesday that fighting was still going in Grozny a day after the government in Moscow said its troops had finished mopping up the last elements of resistance there. The Russian military press service said fighting continued in the Chechen capital, where its troops were doing everything possible to stop separatist fighters breaking through. Mr. Maskhadov said his men were still battling against Russian troops in a final pocket of Grozny, the Chernorechye district, the southern zone where the army commander said Monday it had wiped out the last bastion of Chechen resistance.

## Rabin pledges to continue PLO talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, his government in crisis over a corruption scandal, pledged Tuesday to continue peace talks with the Palestinians despite attacks by militants opposed to the talks. "As long as I have a majority in the Knesset... I will go on, because I feel that this is a window of opportunity," Mr. Rabin said in an address to a conference of reform rabbis in occupied Jerusalem. "I don't know how long this window will be open," he added. Mr. Rabin has steadily lost popularity in recent months — primarily because of the attacks by extremists that have claimed 56 Israeli lives since October. Polls show that if elections were held today Mr. Rabin would lose to right-wing rivals. His troubles were compounded this week with revelations that top officials of the ruling Labour Party may have used millions of dollars belonging to the Histadrut trade union for their political campaigns before losing control of the union last year. (see page 2)

A poll published this week showed that support for the peace process dropped from 59.7 per cent in December to 52.5 per cent. The survey has a four per cent margin of error. But the poll of 500 Israelis, conducted by the Steinmetz Centre for Peace Research at Tel Aviv University, showed that 64 per cent approved of Mr. Rabin's efforts to create a physical separation between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Mr. Rabin appointed Police Minister Moshe Shalom to develop a separation plan after a Jan. 22 suicide bombing in central Israel killed 21 Israelis. Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said Tuesday that the army has presented Mr. Shalom's committee with a \$130 million proposal to use soldiers to patrol the border. Israel Radio said Mr. Shalom was to present Mr. Rabin with a finalised plan in two weeks. The separation plan is reversal of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord which aimed to create a common economic space between Israel and the territories. Talks on extending the 10-month-old Gaza-Jericho autonomy to the West Bank have also been stymied by the violence. In Amman, officials from Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian leadership held talks on the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 war (See separate story). Mr. Rabin urged the international community to maintain aid to Israel's Arab peace partners to bolster support for the process. "There will be no stable peace in the Middle East if the international community, Japan, Europe and the United States will not assist those engaged in peace," Mr. Rabin said. Israeli settlers donned Arab dress Tuesday in a protest at the Amman meeting which they fear could open the floodgates to the return of thousands of Palestinians. Some 20 men and women in chequered scarves and traditional gowns landed at Jerusalem airport aboard two planes chartered by the settlers' council. After their brief flight from Tel Aviv, they chanted slogans and kissed the ground at Atarot airport in East Jerusalem. From there, they rode by bus to an Arab home in Jerusalem now owned by a Jewish lawyer. The bus was covered with posters reading "with blood and fire we have redeemed Palestine" and "Welcome home returnees." Settlers chanted in Arabic, "long live Peres," referring (Continued on page 7)

## Christopher has no new ideas for peace, Israeli army spy chief says

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called Tuesday for fresh talks with Syria as his military intelligence chief said there were no new ideas behind a U.S. peace shuttle to the Middle East this week. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is coming to the region without any really new proposal to settle the differences between Israel and Syria, military intelligence chief Uri Saguy said. "He is just coming to breathe new life into the negotiations," General Saguy told parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee. "There will be no progress again this time because the Syrians consider the United States unable to put pressure on Israel," he said. Mr. Rabin sounded slightly more optimistic. "Let's hope that at least there will be the resumption of the talks in Washington," as a result of the mission by Mr. Christopher, who is due in Israel on Thursday. Mr. Rabin, speaking to American rabbis, defended his proposal for U.S. troops to be stationed on the Golan Heights as part of a peace deal.

He noted that not one U.S. soldier had been killed in 16 years of observing the peace with Egypt in the Sinai peninsula which Israel handed back in 1982. "The Golan Heights today is the safest area from terror in Israel. There has not been one infiltration or clash along the ceasefire line with Syria." Mr. Rabin contrasted that with the Egyptian border where he said infiltrations and arms smuggling were common. Syria has poured scorn on Israel's latest offer and urged Mr. Christopher to come armed with fresh ideas. Mr. Rabin suggested a small-scale withdrawal over three years from the strategic heights to test Syria's desire for peace. But a Syrian official said the proposals were "not even worth discussing." "There is no hope in sight of ending the impasse," Al Baath, the Syrian ruling party's newspaper, said on Tuesday. "Israel's statements only show how wide the gap is between the Syrian and Israeli positions." Both Israel and the United States know time is short to strike a deal with Damascus as by the middle of this year both countries will have an

eye on campaigns for elections in 1996. Mr. Christopher was to fly overnight to Cairo, before continuing on to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Jordan. He is also expected to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza. Since the secretary of state was last in the region three months ago, deadlock has intensified. Israel is quarrelling with the Palestinians, Syria and now also Egypt. "I think we all realise we're at a point in the process that's a difficult one," said one senior U.S. official. "We're in a period where you just have to keep pushing away and you've got to keep working." Independent analysts said, however, that the difficulties had piled up. "Everywhere (Christopher) stops, he will be met with impediments to progress that are larger than they were on his last trip," said Robert Satloff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin warned on Monday that this coming summer was a deadline for achieving peace before Israel and the United States headed

into elections. Some analysts suggested Mr. Christopher might be able to negotiate a resumption of Syrian-Israeli talks during his trip, expected to last about a week. The outlook for the Israeli-Palestinian peace track appears hardly more promising, with Israel refusing to push ahead with a troop withdrawal in the West Bank and Palestinian elections because of what it sees as lax security. As on previous trips, Mr. Christopher is certain to press Mr. Arafat to take tougher measures to discipline the guerrilla groups blamed in the killings of 114 Israelis since Israel and the PLO signed their peace accord in 1993. Israeli officials said they wanted to see Mr. Arafat disarm the groups and put militants on trial. But their arguments have had little weight with Palestinians indignant at Israel's reluctance to curb Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. A new dispute has pitted Israel against Egypt, which is leading a campaign to renew the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for only 10 years — (Continued on page 7)

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## U.N. doubts U.S. reports Iraq can amass chemicals

UNITED NATIONS (R) — United Nations officials in charge of dismantling Iraq's war machine expressed doubts on Monday about U.S. assertions that Iraq is rapidly rebuilding its chemical weapons industry.

U.S. officials accompanying Ambassador Madeleine Albright on a lobbying tour of Security Council members abroad contended Iraq was building a huge industrial facility near Baghdad that could be used for chemical weapons in two years.

But the commission, which receives intelligence reports from the United States, has heavy monitoring at all suspected chemical sites and is wary of the new reports.

"Our assessment is that if there is any clandestine activity at those sites we would know about it," said commission spokesman Tim Trevan.

He said there were five sites associated with Iraq's past chemical warfare programme, the largest at Muthanna, west of Baghdad, and another at Fallujah. Several of the facilities were bombed during the Gulf war.

and the United Nations spent two years destroying chemical agents at the others.

At one site, Mr. Trevan said, Iraq was rebuilding facilities for pesticides and other non-U.N.-proscribed chemicals but these were under unusually heavy U.N. monitoring, including cameras, aerial surveillance and highly developed sensors.

"All the sites are being monitored closely," he said, referring to a long-term U.N. monitoring programme that will stay in place for years to come.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the commission, in a recent report to the Security Council said there were still severe problems in the biological weapons sphere but that he was satisfied the United Nations had destroyed chemical arms.

The new U.S. information on the chemical sites came during a lobbying effort by Ms. Albright.

Ms. Albright claims she has frustrated any attempts to ease sanctions against Iraq, particularly the oil embargo which is linked to weapons

destruction.

Washington can veto any attempt to ease sanctions but it wants most of the 15-member Security Council on its side. U.S. officials contend Ms. Albright's trip firmed up 10 votes.

The United States has Britain, Argentina, the Czech Republic, Honduras and Rwanda on its side. Some Security Council envoys question whether other countries will hold the line if Mr. Ekeus gives a favourable report later this year.

France and Russia, backed by China and Indonesia, have suggested they might seek a suspension of the oil embargo as early as April when Mr. Ekeus gives a six-month report.

At issue is a 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution that links destruction of weapons of mass destruction to lifting or easing sanctions on Iraqi exports such as oil. Imports of goods to Iraq are tied to the return of property to Kuwait and an accounting of war prisoners.



Jordan's tourism minister Abdul Ilah Al-Khatib (right) shakes hands with his Egyptian counterpart Mamdouh Al-Beitagi (centre) and Israeli counterpart Uzi Baran while attending an International Tourism Bourse (ITB) meeting in Berlin's congress centre on Monday. Mr. Khatib returned home on Tuesday (AFP photo)

## Khatib reports growing international interest in Jordan's tourism sector

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Al-Khatib on Tuesday stressed that there was international readiness to support the tourism sector in Jordan, particularly in the wake of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October and the stability the Kingdom enjoys.

He added that the private sector in Jordan, which was largely represented in the Jordanian delegation, felt a growing interest by international tour agencies in the Jordanian market.

Contacts made by delegation members show signs of an increasing demand by tourists to visit Jordan, he said.

## Beleaguered Rabin faces snowballing financial scandal

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, his standing badly shaken by militant attacks and a deadlock in peace talks, now faces a mushrooming scandal over misuse of trade union funds for Labour Party political campaigns.

The scandal broke this week with reports that police were investigating officials who allegedly used millions of dollars belonging to the Histadrut trade union to fund their political campaigns in recent years.

Although Mr. Rabin himself has not been directly investigated, the affair touches at least one cabinet minister and as well as other leading figures in the ruling party.

Naim Ramon, the head of the Histadrut, told AP on Monday that upon taking over the trade union federation from its former Labour Party bosses nine months ago he uncovered evidence of systematic wrongdoing and "a lot of corruption."

Political commentator Nahum Barnea termed the affair "a political cluster bomb that could destroy not only the careers of (former Histadrut officials) but also Rabin."

"His ship is breaking up and sinking," Mr. Barnea wrote in the Yedioth Aharanot daily.

The mood was funeral Monday at Histadrut headquarters in central Tel Aviv, an imposing building adorned with a red flag — a sign of the organisation's socialist roots.

Workers huddled in their rooms debating how far the investigation would reach. "No one who worked here over the years is surprised," said Melika Kadosh, who operates an organisation's trademark t-shirt — which to many Israelis has come to symbolise legends of bureaucrats whiling away the hours sipping tea.

"The corruption stretches all the way to the top, but only the little guys get caught. Maybe this time it will be different."

A top official from the national fraud squad told the Associated Press the police goal was to reach the decision-makers who sanctioned the

wrongdoing.

Mr. Rabin said Monday he would not interfere with the police probe.

"We have rule of law, and everything that will be decided by the investigators will be carried out," he told Israel Radio. "No one, and no framework, is above the law."

Mr. Rabin has steadily lost popularity because of his seeming inability to stem attacks by militants — 56 Israelis have been killed since October — or make headway in peace talks with the Palestinians and Syrians.

His credibility has also suffered because of mismanagement of economic issues. Mr. Rabin cancelled a capital gains tax after months of vacillation, the stock market plunged and pension funds are in trouble.

Mina Tsemach, head of the Dahaf polling organisation, said on army radio Monday that even without factoring in the corruption scandal, Mr. Rabin would be defeated by right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu if elections were held today.

The Histadrut, representing 60 per cent of Israel's workforce of about two million, was the party's main power base for 74 years until Mr. Ramon, a Labour Party renegade, won elections last year. It owns a web of industries, services and collective farms estimated to account for up to a fifth of Israel's economic output.

On Monday, Haaretz and other newspapers reported that a middle-ranking Histadrut functionary, Uzi Fassa, agreed to testify that top Labour Party officials coerced him into misappropriating funds.

According to the reports, about 1.4 million shekels (\$500,000) in members' dues were transferred to Labour's failed union election campaign last year, and millions of shekels more were used to support several party members' 1992 Knesset campaigns.

Based on documents provided by Mr. Ramon, police are also investigating if Labour officials used Histadrut funds for wiretaps

and surveillance on Mr. Ramon during last year's campaign.

"All those documents we gave to police and we will continue to disclose... the fact that people and maybe parties used money of the Histadrut for their individual purposes," Mr. Ramon said.

Of course such a corruption scandal will have an effect on the political map in Israel," Mr. Ramon predicted.

The daily Maariv newspaper said officials suspected of misusing the funds include former Histadrut head Haim Haberfeld, Transportation Minister Yisrael Kessar, Deputy Industry Minister Masha Lubelski, Legislator Avi Yeheskel and others.

"Police are uncovering things we knew all along," said Matti Golan, a leading journalist and editor. "What do they mean by saying the party used union funds? The party was the union. If the police only discovered this now there is something wrong."

### Rabin intervenes

On Tuesday, Mr. Rabin launched a damage limitation exercise as police probed the alleged misuse of millions of dollars of trade union funds.

"Only individuals are involved, not the Labour Party as such," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio as the fraud inquiry widened.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said charges would soon be filed against some of the suspects.

The radio reported that police would question Transport Minister Kessar and Deputy Trade Minister Lubelski as well as several Labour Party deputies.

Despite Mr. Rabin's intervention, Trade Minister Micha Harish warned of major trouble ahead. A meeting of the party politburo will take place on Thursday to review the position ahead of next year's elections.

"The longer the police examine Labour's affairs, the greater the danger for the party," said Mr. Harish.

## Algerian press attacks ban on paper

TUNIS (R) — Algeria's press has ripped into a government order to suspend a French-language newspaper, calling the decision "butchery by the guillotine" and "liquidation" of press freedoms.

The authorities on Sunday closed La Tribune on the grounds it was not publishing a twin Arabic publication as required by law. Algerian journalists widely regarded that as a pretext to silence an independent newspaper critical of official policy.

"La Tribune's suspension appears clearly as a manoeuvre to liquidate awkward newspapers," said the leading French-language newspaper Al Watan, saying it made a mockery of President Liamine Zerrouk's pledge last month to protect the press.

U.S.-based press freedom advocacy group Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) wrote on Monday to Mr. Zerrouk urging him to allow La Tribune and the weekly Al Wajh Al Akhar to resume publishing immediately.

Al Wajh Al Akhar was suspended on Feb. 20 by the Interior Ministry without any official explanation, the U.S. group said in its letter faxed to Reuters.

"The Committee to Protect Journalists fears that these publications have been penalised simply for having exercised their right to free expression," the letter said. Journalism in Algeria has been caught in the middle of a bloody conflict between the military-backed authorities and militants fighting to overthrow them. An estimated 30,000 Algerians have died in three years of fighting.

But free debate of the country's political future still rages in independent newspapers, despite militants killing at least 33 journalists and continual harassment by the authorities.

The main Arabic language newspaper, Al Khabar, compared La Tribune's suspension to a freedom fighter being "butchered by the violent guillotine."

Algeria's army-backed government has suspended several newspapers for "subversive information" and "apologising for terrorism" since conflict with the militants broke out. But it was the first time a paper was banned on grounds of language.

In the past, journalists appealed to high officials when faced by government restrictions. But their tone on Monday was defiant.

"(The closure) is only unveiling the authorities' true intentions to silence... the Algerian people," La Tribune's editors said in a statement. On Sunday, they had bittely referred to the militants and the government as a "coalition of terrorism and authoritarianism."

Journalists say the government has stepped up pressure on them recently by hampering distribution, raising printing costs and imposing a government monopoly on advertising.

## Israeli probe condemns confusion on 'executions'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A former military chief said Monday that ambiguous instructions have confused troops and may have led them to believe that it was acceptable to execute fallen enemies.

The charge emerged from an inquiry by reserve General Moshe Levy into whether an army officer was mistakenly executed by his own forces carrying out the long-rumoured but officially denied practice widely known as "verifying the kill."

The investigation into the Dec. 19 death of Major Kiwan Hamed in Lebanon was launched after February media reports that his own troops mistook him for a guerrilla, shot him from afar and then approached to shoot him until he was dead.

Gen. Levy determined that Hamed got caught in cross-fire during an intense, close-range gun battle between Israeli troops and Lebanese guerrillas and could have been killed by either side.

The report concluded soldiers did shoot Hamed after he was down: "Towards the

end of the clash, the soldiers approached a man lying on the ground. Two of them fired at him, hitting him a few times, until somebody shouted, 'don't shoot, it's Kiwan'."

But Gen. Levy maintained that this did not constitute what is known as "verifying the kill."

"I didn't find any confirmation of the claim that the verifying the kill procedure was applied here," he wrote.

Gen. Levy did, however, criticise what he termed "a great and dangerous lack of clarity both among the soldiers and their commanders" regarding the procedure.

"What began as encouraging fighters to kill the enemy during an assault has grown wild. Written regulations completely rule out harming an enemy who has surrendered or who no longer poses a danger (but) there are circumstances that can... bring soldiers into forbidden situations," he wrote.

He called for "uprooting procedures and practices that might mislead and create the confusion that exists today."

An army statement said only that it had adopted Gen. Levy's recommendations and ordered them implemented. There was no direct response to the criticism regarding "verifying the kill."

The army has consistently denied the practice exists. But soldiers have claimed it does. Last month Israel TV aired a videotape in which soldiers were seen shooting point-blank a prostrate Palestinian who had tried to attack them.

Gen. Levy recommended reprimanding four top officers, including northern commander Major General Amiram Levine, for their handling of the Hamed affair, especially not immediately divulging details of the incident to Hamed's family, members of Israel's Druze minority.

The officers "caused severe damage to the credibility of army reports," Gen. Levy wrote.

## Journalist freed after prolonged PNA detention

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The director of the Gaza based Al Abrar press office was released two days ago following a prolonged detention in the hands of the Palestinian police, a reliable source said Tuesday.

Alaa Al Saffawi was detained on Feb. 8 when the Palestinian police raided the premises of the press office, according to an international organisation, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

"I have received information from Gaza that Al Saffawi was released on Monday," said the source, who did not wish to be named.

Al Abrar press office issues Islamic Jihad's Al-Istiqal weekly.

Earlier reports claimed that Mr. Saffawi was detained after the Jan. 22 suicide bombing which killed 21 Israelis.

His detention along with that of five other Al Istiqal journalists coincided with the rounding up of supporters of organisations opposed to the peace accords with Israel. More than 60 people were arrested following January's bomb-blast.

Groups which oppose the peace accords include Islamic Jihad, Hamas and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

"Saffawi was held for two reasons. The first was on account of Israeli pressure on Yasser Arafat to crack down on Islamic militant activities," the source told the Jordan Times.

The second reason, said the source, was attributable to the role played by Mr. Saffawi's father, a Gazan leader who supports the Palestine National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat. Mr. Saffawi's father was assassinated in Gaza over a year ago, the source said.

"Saffawi has chosen to tread another line (to that of his father) and so the second reason for his detention was to make him adopt his father's position," the source added.

"It was part of a crackdown, which the Palestinian administration is very sincere about" on opponents to the peace accords, he said.

According to the source, part of this on-going crackdown included "lengthy" interrogations of two inmates who criticised Mr. Arafat in their preachings last Friday.

They were apparently released after questioning.

The source was unable to say whether the five journalists detained with Mr. Al Saffawi had been freed yet.

In a recent statement issued by the New York-based CPJ, the journalists were named as Ayyeh Abu Mansour, Khaled Sadeq, Nabeel Kutkut, Mohammed Sayyad and Zakariya Madhoun. A copy of the statement was obtained by the Jordan Times.

The non-partisan organisation's statement included a letter sent to Mr. Arafat expressing its concern over the "prolonged detention of Alaa Al Saffawi... and five other journalists with the paper (Al-Istiqal)." It added that the committee feared that they were "imprisoned for exercising their right to free expression."

The CPJ is dedicated to the defence of journalists' rights throughout the world.

The Al Abrar press office was closed following January's bomb attack because the two militants responsible were members of Islamic Jihad. The PNA allowed the reopening of the office on Feb. 27 after an investigation showed there was no need to keep it closed, although its director remained in detention until Monday.

## Australian firm owner's safety depends on U.N.

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian-based business man held in Somalia by his creditors faces possible mutilation if the United Nations does not pay its debts to the firm's managing director said on Tuesday.

"We have probably a week or a week and a half at the outside where we have to make things happen," Robert McVicker told Reuters from the firm's base in Brisbane.

"If we can't, we're going to be back in the same situation, but this time they might lop off a finger or his ear to show they're serious," Mr. McVicker said.

"They do that sort of thing over there," he said.

The owner of Australian-based Morris Catering, David Morris, offered himself last Wednesday as security on debts owing to the firm's Somali creditors.

Mr. Morris, a New Zealander, has been told he cannot leave Somalia until the \$2 million debt is paid. Mr. McVicker said.

Morris Catering supplied U.N. troops in Somalia with food before they withdrew last week, but it claims it cannot pay its creditors until the United Nations pays its bills.

Mr. McVicker said he is due to meet senior U.N. officials in New York on Thursday to seek an urgent payment.

The United Nations owes Morris catering \$20 million, but part payment of at least

\$5 million will be enough to win Mr. Morris's complete freedom and enable the firm to withdraw from the African country, Mr. McVicker said.

The United Nations is in dispute with Mr. Morris over its contract with his company, and the matter could go to litigation, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said in New York on Monday.

New Zealand and Australian governments have begun pressing the United Nations for the matter to be resolved.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans wrote on Tuesday to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to ensure the issue received top priority, a spokesman for Mr. Evans told Reuters.

A New Zealand Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday that Wellington was still concerned about Mr. Morris and would keep pressing the United Nations for a resolution to the dispute.

Mr. Morris, an Australian resident, offered himself as security to his creditors to win the release of two Australian employees who were previously being held.

The controversial businessman won a lucrative contract to supply the United Nations in Somalia.

In a war-torn Somalia ended last Friday with the withdrawal of the last peacekeeping troops.

In October 1993, Mr. Morris' 21-year-old son, Tyson, was killed by Somali gunmen after dismissing a Somali for his job.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Les Ratons Lavours
17:30	Envoyé Spécial "Magazine"
18:00	News in French
19:30	
19:45	"The Bold and the Beautiful"
20:30	The Marvellous Machine
21:00	Berlin Break
22:40	News in English
23:00	Prism
23:10	Snowy River
23:10	Keeping Up Appearances
PRAYER TIMES	
04:35	Fajr
05:52	(Sunrise) Duha
11:47	Dhuhr
15:07	Asr
17:42	Maghrib
18:58	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swidieh, Tel. 810740	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 633541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771251	
Armenian International Church Tel. 632326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 804328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures are expected to rise with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate. In Amman, moderate rain or drizzle with occasional hail, with a cold front passing south of Amman.	
Min/Max. temp.	
Amman	6/18
Agaba	13/26
Deserts	4/20
Jordan Valley	11/25
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman	24
Agaba	24
Deserts	18
Jordan Valley	24

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
AMMAN 16 Agaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent. Agaba 39 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Yousef Abdo	694916
Dr. Bassim Qudmani	648633
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih	759688
Dr. Fekih Tayeh	885880
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asona pharmacy	637055
Nakouli pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeini pharmacy	637660
Shmeini pharmacy	623672
Hafid pharmacy	647632
DRIBD:	
Dr. Ahmad Qanu	(-)
Al Quds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Randa Shabin	993710
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank	617101
Highway Police	775121
Traffic Police	843402
Public Security Department	896390
Host Complaints	630321
Price Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	630321
Repairs	623101
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	610230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann.	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642525
Malhas, J. Amman	626140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	643845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafieh	775112/6
Army, B. Marfa	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	6224050



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A detention

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investigation of  
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their preaching an  
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Safawi, has been  
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based TPI, the No  
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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday visits the southern border regions (Armed Forces photo)

## Crown Prince visits Aqaba and southern border regions

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday visited Aqaba and the southern border regions of Jordan where he urged the concerned authorities to be attentive to the cleanliness and good management of the border posts thus facilitating the comfortable passage of travellers in these areas.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of the Kingdom's border posts and their services in reflecting the proper image of the country to neighbouring countries.

The Crown Prince, who visited the eastern and northern parts of Aqaba, urged local residents to take good care of the land and ensure that factories set up in these areas would not pose a threat to the environment or the

soil. He recommended that the Aqaba Region Authority and the local councils reach a final solution to the problems facing the distribution and sale of land in the Aqaba region, saying that a law should be enacted to ban the sale of land except through the Lands and Survey Department, and that development projects in the Aqaba region should primarily benefit local citizens.

Accompanied by local officials the Prince toured the border area and the procedures at the crossing points. He urged the concerned authorities to link organisational plans to those of the neighbouring badia region, and stressed that local residents should receive

appropriate training and be employed in development projects in the southern regions of the Kingdom.

Furthermore, Prince Hassan ordered that the 27 artisan wells that have been closed in the past years be reopened.

The Water Authority has been implementing strict rules concerning the exploitation of artisan wells and had banned drilling of new wells with the aim of protecting water basins.

Present at the meeting with Prince Hassan were several executive directors of projects, governors and district governors, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Abdul Hafez Marai Al Kaabneh and the commander of the southern region.

## Classified civil service contracts frozen for new hires — official

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a move aimed mainly at reining in the rising cost of pension payments to retired civil servants, the government will not be issuing classified civil service contracts to any of its new hires for an indefinite period, Abdul Rahman Ajlouni, director of the Ministry of Finance's Public Budget Department, told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Mr. Ajlouni said that the freeze, decided upon by the Cabinet during its meeting on the eve of Eid Al Fitr, "is definite through 1995. But more studies will be needed before any decision on whether the freeze will be a long-term one."

Previously, officials had indicated in recent months that the government was studying ways to dampen any future rises in the cost of providing for retired civil servants who held classified government contracts.

These civil servants draw

tensive civil service labour pool.

The government's projected openings for new civil employees in 1995, according to Mr. Ajlouni, amount to roughly 2,800 posts.

Meanwhile, he said, the government already has some 37,000 employees currently working in various capacities.

As of late January this year, President of the Civil Service Commission Abdullah Ulayyan counted employment applications on file at the SSC at 102,000, in comparison to 2,000 actual job openings available at the time.

A secondary objective of the recent freeze, according to Mr. Ajlouni, would be to give any new government hires greater mobility to move into private sector jobs if they so choose, as their pension subscriptions to the SSC could be transferred with them, without any cut-off effect resulting from the move out of their government jobs.

their retirement pensions directly from the government treasury. All new government employees hired during the freeze, according to Mr. Ajlouni, will be issued individual contracts with pensions provided for by subscriptions to the Social Security Corporation (SSC) instead.

Until now, the SSC has mainly handled pensions for private sector employees.

Allocations needed to cover the cost of pension payments to former classified civil servants, as well as non-civilian government employees, reached JD 160 million in the government's 1995 budget, amounting to what some economists have labelled as a major national debt in its own right.

Officials have also said that in the past, "international and regional institutions" had recommended phasing pension payments for civil servants out of the budget, and urged steps to prevent further inflation in the size of the already ex-

## UNRWA to meet with donor, host countries Agency warns of service cuts as funding erodes

By Ghadeer Taber  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Warning that it would be forced to cut essential services if contributions continue to erode, the United Nations agency in charge of caring for over three million Palestinian refugees begins a two-day meeting today in Amman with major donors and host countries.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which has a budget of about \$300 million, provides health, educational and other essential services for Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Faced with an erosion in contributions from donor countries, Secretary-General Iltis Turkmen plans to present representatives of about 20 countries and the host governments of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, with a new approach — "the five-year planning horizon," according to Chief of UNRWA's Public Information Office Sandro Tucci. For the first time, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will also participate as an observer.

UNRWA, which prior to the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles submitted an annual or bi-annual

budget to donors, will present a "five-year planning horizon" to coincide with the timetable set out by the Declaration of Principles, which envisions a final settlement to the Palestinian problem within five years. It is not clear what would be the fate of the agency after the five-year transitional period.

"The delegations will be presented with a perspective on the financial requirements of the coming five years and the requirements necessary to keep our services untouched taking into account the increase in population and cost," said Mr. Tucci. "It will be difficult for the agency to continue to work in uncertainty with the continuing and growing budget deficit which so far has been covered by severe austerity measures," said Mr. Tucci.

The agency, which depends on the generosity of donor countries to run its schools, hospitals and food programmes in the camps, was faced with a \$10 million deficit last year which it covered through cuts in the agency's running expenses, including travel and a hiring freeze. So far programmes in the camps remain untouched.

"It has to be clear to everyone that if we continue to receive less money than needed, we will have



An elderly Palestinian refugee walks through a street in Baqa'a camp, north of Amman (UNRWA photo)

to cut our services," said Mr. Tucci, noting that UNRWA was the only organisation taking care of the Palestinian poor.

Although it is not expected that donor countries would pledge specific funds to the agency's budget at this informal meeting, UNRWA officials expect to get a general indication of how these countries want to cope with the five-year plan.

At the meeting, which is expected to be opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, UNRWA will also discuss with the donor countries the agency's move from Vienna to the Gaza Strip.

The relocation of the headquarters, which was decided in June 1994, has to be financed from resources outside UNRWA's general budget as stipulated by the general assem-

bly resolution.

"There is a resolution by the general assembly that says we have to move to Gaza," said Mr. Tucci. "To move to Gaza we need funds and these funds have not been forthcoming yet. It is hoped that at this meeting we will have a clear perception of what the donor countries want to do in terms of our move and shouldering the expenses."

## JPA to notify newspaper managements of ruling on 1% advertising revenues

AMMAN (J.T.) — In light of a decision by a judicial panel which ruled that the Jordan Press Association (JPA) has the right to collect one per cent of the total advertising revenues earned by daily newspapers, the JPA board Tuesday decided that it would formally convey the decision to the papers' managements and demand that they abide by the ruling within a month of notification.

Meeting under the chairmanship of JPA President Saleiman Qudab, the board said in a statement that the ruling by a panel of judges led by Judge Khleif Suheimat came in the course of the

interpretation of the JPA law of 1983, adding that newspaper managements should abide by the ruling and the requirements of the JPA law.

The panel ruling, issued Feb. 26, 1995, confirmed that the JPA has the right to the one per cent collection on advertising revenues and said that in any case the amount should not be less than JD 200 annually.

The panel also ruled that each weekly publication should pay the JPA JD 75 annually.

The board noted that it discussed the situation that arose following the decision

to liquidate the Dar Al Shaab firm which used to publish Sawt Al Shaab, an Arabic daily, and the fate of its staff.

A JPA committee entrusted with following up matters related to the journalists who were employed at Sawt Al Shaab submitted a report on its work which it noted that the concerned government authorities "will safeguard the journalists' rights and compensation, and will find jobs for at least the JPA members among them."

The board voiced appreciation of decisions to that effect taken by Minister of Information Khaled Karaki, Minister

of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and the chairman of the Dar Al Shaab board, Wasel Azar.

The board called for a meeting on Saturday of the membership committee to finalise procedures for the registration of new journalists, paying the ground for their swearing-in before the minister of information so that they can practise journalism.

On Feb. 26, the director of the Press and Publications Department decided to suspend the publication of two weeklies on the basis that their chief editors did not meet all the requirements of

the JPA law. The weeklies were Hawadeth Al Sa'ah and Al Bilad.

Although they have been accepted as JPA members, the two editors have not yet taken the oath nor received their JPA membership cards.

The JPA board stressed its commitment "to execute" the JPA law and also to protect freedom of the press and journalists' rights.

The board also decided to call for a JPA general assembly meeting Friday, March 31, to endorse the JPA's 1994 accounts and the 1995 budget and to listen to a JPA board report.

## Search on for driver of red hit-run vehicle

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Abu Alanda and Quesmeih police Tuesday continued their search for a red Mercedes who witnesses described Monday evening as the vehicle which struck and killed a 12-year-old boy in the Abu Alanda area.

An 11-year-old child told police that the victim, Khalil

Abdul Hamid, was crossing the street when he was struck by the vehicle.

According to the Public Security Department (PSD) report, police obtained a good description of the vehicle from bystanders at the scene of the accident, but they were unable to get the vehicle's tag numbers, the report added.

As of Tuesday evening, police were still searching for the driver of the red vehicle.



Jordanian and Palestinian delegations meet in Amman to discuss cultural cooperation in information fields (Petra photo)

## Jordanian, Palestinian teams discuss cultural cooperation in information

AMMAN (Petra) — A Palestinian delegation from the self-rule areas Tuesday held talks at the Ministry of Culture to organise bilateral cooperation in cultural affairs covering radio and television programmes, libraries and national documentation centres, and theatre and news programmes.

The Palestinian delegation, led by Mohammad Barrawi, who is advisor to the Palestinian Ministry of Culture, presented a request to the Jordanian ministry for Jordanian expertise to help the Palestinian side in matters such as legislation on culture and information as well as training of staff to be employed in these fields.

His counterpart, Mohammad Naji Amareh, the Ministry of Culture secretary general, said that the meeting was in implementation of a general agreement concluded by Palestine and Jordan on Jan. 1, 1995 covering coop-

eration in cultural and information affairs.

Mr. Amareh said that the two sides exchanged views on relevant questions and a draft protocol for the execution of a cultural and information agreement that would cover the years 1995, 1996 and 1997.

Noting that the two sides are bound to cooperate closely in these fields since the Palestinians and Jordanians form one people, Mr. Amareh expressed hope that the two delegations will pursue all efforts to coordinate such cooperation in the best interest of the people on the two sides of the Jordan River.

Jordan places no restrictions or limits whatsoever on the extent of cooperation between the two sides and hopes that all channels will remain open for consultation and coordination, said Mr. Amareh.

He expressed Jordan's

readiness to provide the Palestinian side with expertise in matters related to culture and information.

Mr. Barrawi said that the Palestine National Authority (PNA) is keen on maintaining the closest possible cooperation with Jordan, and voiced Palestine's deep appreciation of Jordan's constant support for the Palestinian people.

The Jordanian side presented ideas on cooperation between radio and television stations, national news agencies, cultural centres, theatre work, book exhibitions and cultural festivals.

At the end of the meeting the two sides set up a joint drafting committee to prepare a protocol for the implementation of the Jan. 26 agreement.

Representatives of radio and television as well as news agencies and cultural centres on the two sides were present at the meeting.

## Municipal affairs minister tours Ajloun, Jerash municipalities

JERASH (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Nader Thuheirat Tuesday said that his ministry is planning to initiate investment and income-generating projects at each major municipality in different governorates in order to help these municipalities earn income needed to finance local services projects.

Speaking during visits to Ajloun and Jerash municipalities in northern Jordan, the minister said the ministry's

plan will be implemented first at the municipalities and later will extend to various local councils.

The municipalities, many of which are deep in debt could ensure steady income to repay their obligations to the various financing institutions and guarantee for themselves a constant income for their own services and programmes, said Mr. Thuheirat during his tour.

Mr. Thuheirat discussed with the mayors of the two

municipalities prospects for tourism projects in their respective areas, noting that Jerash and Ajloun were among the Kingdom's main attractions for summer vacationers.

But, he stressed that income-generating projects and city planning procedures should be carried out to ensure public safety and the safety of the environment.

The minister also discussed the local councils' role in helping to curb road acci-

dents, noting that the ministry has recently created a special department to take care of this issue and to give advice to the local councils.

He said that plans are under way to organise a workshop designed to provide municipalities staff with basic knowledge and skill to handle their tasks and to contribute towards reducing road accidents in their regions.

The minister listened to a briefing by the heads of municipality committees ab-

## Prague Chamber Ballet to land on stage in avant-garde spectrum of compositions

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Saturday and Sunday the Prague Chamber Ballet, an avant-garde ballet ensemble, will present two differing performances at the Royal Cultural Centre. The performances will be the second exposition of Czech culture in the Kingdom in the last four months.

The musical repertoire of the two performances mainly celebrates Czech and Slovak compositions, for which choreographed stage performances have been especially arranged for the first time.

The ballet company displays a range of choreographic compositions from

story-less dance routines to comedies and even "fully dramatised ballets," the company's programme reads.

Established in 1975, the Prague Chamber Ballet will be celebrating its 20th anniversary later this year. The troupe consists of only 18 dancers, whose artistic director and choreographer, Pavel Smok, has orchestrated over 80 ballets.

The programme describes Mr. Smok as an artistic director who uses emotion and intelligence in his work and adds that he often chooses musical scores "such as certain choirs, symphonies, chamber and vocal works never intended for the

stage."

But his choreography is "so in harmony with the music, that the audience is inspired to believe they are listening with their eyes."

This is only the second time that Czech artists have visited the Kingdom.

In October a trio of professional musicians performed Czech classical music, including the works of world famed composers Bedrich Smetana and Antonin Dvorak.

Later this month (March 29-April 13) there will also be an exhibition of Czech children's paintings at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The two performances of



The Prague Chamber Ballet

contemporary Czech ballet will be under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The visit of the Prague Chamber Ballet has been

arranged by the Czech embassy in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation/National Music Conservatory.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Marwan Qasab Bashi at Darat Al Funn. Also showing a permanent exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.

★ Exhibition of art by Consuelo Gonzalez at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

★ Exhibition of women's abstract artists entitled "The World Through the Eyes of Women" at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ "Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American Centre.



## Seoul announces 6-day military exercise

## Japan pledges \$5.8 million for N. Korea nuclear deal

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan said Tuesday it would provide an initial \$5.8 million for a global consortium to underwrite a nuclear deal with North Korea.

\$3 million will be used for an on-site survey for the construction of light-water reactors and \$2.8 million for operating costs of the secretariat of the Korean Energy Development Organisation (KEDO). Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said in a statement.

KEDO aims to raise \$4.5 billion to provide North Korea with light-water reactors and alternative energy supplies as pledged in a pact signed between Pyongyang and Washington in Geneva last October.

In return, North Korea has promised to freeze and dismantle its energy programme, which was widely suspected of being used to also produce nuclear bombs. Pyongyang denies the charge.

South Korea is expected to provide the bulk of the funds for the consortium. Japan has also pledged to foot a significant amount of the bill, but has not yet provided a specific figure.

"Japan has also made clear

its intention to play a significant financial role in the light-water reactor project, under an overall project scheme in which the Republic of Korea is expected to play the central role," Mr. Igarashi said.

Australia has already pledged \$5 million and New Zealand \$325,000 to the programme.

KEDO is due to be officially launched after two days of meetings start on March 8 in New York.

Apart from South Korea, the United States and Japan, KEDO's initial signatories, the two-day meeting will be attended by representatives of about 20 countries.

Pyongyang Tuesday declared it had "nothing to lose or fear" if an agreement on reining in its nuclear programme collapsed over U.S. insistence that the North accept South Korean reactors.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that if an agreement on light-water reactors is not signed by April 21, Pyongyang will "be left with no other choice but

to make a corresponding decision and take action."

"Even if the (North Korean)-U.S. agreed framework collapsed for this, we would have nothing to lose or fear. On the contrary, we would have a favourable opportunity to put the state of things on the right course before it is too late," KCNA said.

The statement did not spell out the course of action, but seemed to hint at a resumption by North Korea of the reprocessing of irradiated fuel rods, which can be used to extract plutonium for possible use in making nuclear weapons.

The North Korean statement was in response to an announcement in Washington last week by South Korean, U.S. and Japanese officials that the supply of two South Korean reactors was the only choice open to Pyongyang.

Meanwhile South Korean army, naval and air force units will launch a six-day joint military exercise next month in Kangwon, a north-eastern province bordering the demilitarised zone, the Defence Department said Tuesday.

The announcement said an

army corps, a naval fleet command and one air force fighter wing would take part in the manoeuvres from April 3 to 8. The numbers of units and men taking part are classified information, a Defence Department spokesman said.

Holding of the exercise had been delayed from March so that there could be "no misunderstanding" in North Korea in connection with the joint U.S.-South Korean manoeuvres known as Team Spirit, the spokesman said.

The U.S. and South Korean commands announced last month that Team Spirit, tentatively scheduled for March, had been cancelled in expectation that North Korea would continue to honour its commitments under the October nuclear accord with Washington.

The North, which intelligence reports say held "more vigorous than usual" winter exercises of its own from December to February this year, calls Team Spirit, held annually since 1976, "a rehearsal for war."

The limited South Korean exercise will take place in the mountainous Hwachon area of Kangwon province, the spokesman said.

## Clinton announces new development initiative

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — In a vigorous counterpunch to critics of the United States, U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton took centre stage at the U.N. World Summit on Social Development on Tuesday with a major new commitment to women's education in the Third World.

Mrs. Clinton appealed for the rights of women and workers and urged governments to hand over power to citizens and voluntary organisations in the fight against poverty and social injustice.

"Investing in the health of women and girls is essential for global prosperity. Tomorrow, as part of International Women's Day, it will be my honour to announce a major new United States commitment to expand educational opportunities for poor girls on three continents."

Mrs. Clinton was speaking on the second day of a week-long summit aimed at battling poverty, unemployment and social disintegration.

In an apparent attempt to deflect criticism from her husband, who will not be among the 111 heads of state or government due to address the summit's final two days, Mrs. Clinton said:

"It has become fashionable in recent years to assign blame for the world's problems to one group of nations or another. I hope that this summit is not going to succumb to that temptation."

Addressing a packed hall of delegates, Mrs. Clinton repeatedly stressed the vital role of non-governmental organisations, and said "the experience and wisdom of NGOs will be critical in guiding us to a safer, more just and unified world."

She cited landmark social advances in the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries — "the abolition of slavery, the right of women to vote as well as the civil rights movement" — saying they "would not have been achieved without the leadership of civic, religious and social organisations."

In what one observer dubbed "Clinton's return to the political scene," the first lady told the plenary session of delegates "too much time is spent in the naked pursuit of power" and she urged all governments to ratify the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

She praised the role of human and civil rights organisations, stating that they have "helped improve the lives of tens of millions of men, women, children and families struggling to escape poverty, tyranny and social dislocation."

She described UNICEF as the shining example of an NGO with a "decade-long focus on child survival. Among the strategies it had pioneered were breast feeding or rehydration therapy and immunisations."



Bodies are covered with plastics after suspected mafia hitmen shot the victims. Domenico Buscetta, the nephew of supergrass Tommaso Buscetta, was shot with a single bullet to the head in the middle of a Palermo street a few hours after. Two of the victims here were known mafia members (AFP photo)

## Mafia's code of silence spells death for kinfolk

ROME (R) — Anti-mafia investigators in Sicily know it as the "transverse vendetta."

In layman's language it is violent death lurking in wait for anyone with even remote blood ties to those who dare to break Cosa Nostra's fear-some code of silence, or "omertà."

Domenico Buscetta, a 45-year-old jeweller in Palermo, paid the price of his uncle Tommaso's decade-old breach of the code Monday night when killers on a motorcycle gunned him down on a street in the Sicilian capital.

Mobsters exacted similar indirect retribution on another turncoat of long standing, former hitman Salvatore "Totuccio" Contorno, when a cousin much removed, 23-year-old Marcello Grado, was shot dead in a Palermo fruit market last Thursday.

The murders were among nine mafia killings in Sicily since Feb. 25 that add up to a bloody show of force by Cosa Nostra after two years of relative calm following the body blow dealt by the arrest of "boss of bosses" Salvatore "the Beast" Riina.

Investigators believe a common thread may link all nine murders but acknowledge they have yet to establish it.

One theory is that the clans, which have largely lain low since 1993, are back at each other's throats in a new war for supremacy inside Cosa Nostra.

Another is that the mafia's cupola, or ruling commission, has decided on chilling deterrent to potential new informers and their families by killing relatives of established turncoats in a return to the "transverse vendetta."

## For millions of women, the 1990s has meant denial of human rights—Amnesty

LONDON (AP) — For millions of women, the 1990s brought terror, discrimination and a denial of human rights, Amnesty International Women's Day.

"Human Rights violation against women are rampant partly because they remain largely hidden," it said. "Women are the invisible victims of the 1990s."

Amnesty International called on governments to adopt a plan to promote and protect women's human rights.

"No country in the world treats its women as well as its men. Women from all social classes, cultures and races, in all societies, are at risk of abuse of their human rights," it said.

Women around the world are denied human rights because of deeply rooted discrimination, wars and civil conflicts, and repression of their political or social activism, it said in the 135-page report.

"A proliferation of situations of armed conflict is devastating women's lives in many quarters of the globe," the report said. "As the 20th century draws to a close, women who have taken no part in conflicts are being murdered, raped and mutilated."

Most casualties of war are women and children, and in conflict areas women are

## U.S. reaffirms confidence in Claes

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

The U.S. government reaffirmed confidence in Willy Claes Monday as the scandal-threatened NATO chief began long-scheduled meetings with leaders of President Bill Clinton's administration.

Mr. Claes' formal news conference at the National Press Club next Thursday was cancelled without immediate explanation, however, as the Belgian NATO secretary-general continued avoiding reporters.

At her regular State Department briefing, spokeswoman Christine Shelly recalled the Vice President Al Gore a week ago in Brussels had declared "full and complete confidence" in Mr. Claes, who was appointed by NATO governments last October to the top civilian post in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Mr. Claes was scheduled to meet Mr. Clinton at the White House Tuesday.

He was Secretary of State Warren Christopher's guest at a State Department working lunch Monday. A picture-taking session lasted only 23 seconds, shorter than the normal "photo opportunity" affording journalists time for questions.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry welcomed him for afternoon talks with a Pentagon Honour Guard ceremony.

Mr. Claes warned that a pullout of U.N. peacekeepers from Croatia would make it more difficult to prevent the spread of war in the Balkans.

There would be "no fallback" for Croatia if President Franjo Tudjman carries out his plan to have the peacekeepers ejected at the end of the month, Mr. Claes told reporters after an arrival ceremony at the Pentagon.

Mr. Claes was seeking to maintain the low profile he assumed after the developing scandal brought calls in some European capitals for his resignation from the NATO post. In the affair, His Belgian Socialist Party was accused of receiving a \$1.7 million kickback on an order of \$250 million \$400 million worth of military helicopters at the times Mr. Claes was economics minister.

Johan Delanghe, a one-time senior aid to Mr. Claes, was arrested on Feb. 28 in Brussels in connection with allegations of receiving a bribe on the helicopter deal from Italian firm, Augusta.

In Brussels police investigating the corruption scandal involving bribes reportedly paid for military contracts have seized documents from the offices of the French aeronautics firm Dassault Aviation and an affiliated company, police said Tuesday.

They said they searched the offices of Dassault and its Belgian affiliate Societe Anonyme Belge de Construction Aeronautique (SABCA) Monday in connection with the Augusta scandal.

## American named as new Paris Opera conductor

PARIS (AFP) — U.S. conductor James Conlon has been named to head the orchestra of the Paris Opera, succeeding South Korean-born maestro Myung Whun Chung, who was fired last year, the Paris Opera announced Monday. Conlon, 44, has been appointed conductor "in agreement with the French government," said Hugues Gall, acting director of the Paris Opera. Conlon, who will retain his present job as musical director of the Cologne Opera orchestra as well as the western German city's orchestra, will be musical advisor to Gall starting from May 1 before formally taking over as orchestra head in August, 1996. The American's contract will run until 2001, like Gall's. The latter takes over as full director of the Paris Opera next August. Conlon's title as conductor is lesser than Chung's, who was musical director. Born in New York, Conlon is a product of the city's Juilliard School. By the age of 24, he conducted the New York Philharmonic and two years later the Metropolitan. Chung was given a nine million franc (\$1.7 million) payment last September after the Paris Opera broke his contract as part of a cost-cutting exercise ordered by the conservative government of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

## Claudia Schiffer quits wearing fur

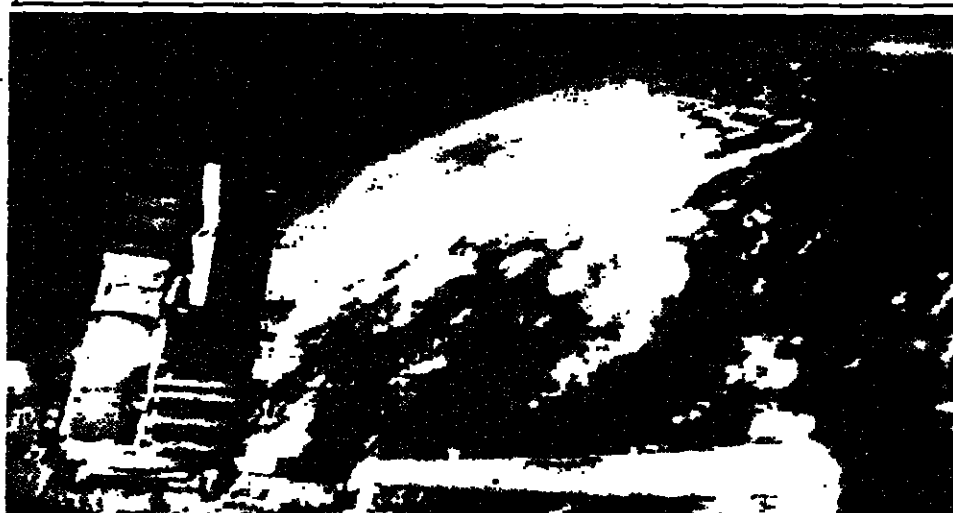
LONDON (R) — German Claudia Schiffer has become the latest supermodel to stop wearing fur on the catwalk, animal activists said Tuesday. "Chanel's models popped at our office when Claudia Schiffer's signature arrive," said a spokeswoman for PETA. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. "The big question now is, will anybody model fur on the international runways this month?" spokeswoman Amanda Bate said in a statement. It said Schiffer, one of the world's most highly paid models, had worn animal furs for a Karl Lagerfeld show in Milan last year but had pledged not to do so again. PETA said a "models for compassion" petition had also been signed by supermodels Cindy Crawford and Kate Moss.

## Burglars tunnel in, take \$7m in valuables

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Burglars tunneled into Mayban Finance's strong room and looted safe deposit boxes of an estimated \$7.8 million worth of valuables, police said. Kuala Lumpur Police Chief Arthur Edmunds said the burglars emptied more than 723 boxes of contents including jewelry, stock certificates, cash and other items. Police still were calculating the exact amount of losses, he added. The finance company had been closed since last Thursday evening for the Muslim festival of Eid Al Fitr. The break-in was discovered Monday morning. Police said the burglars had entered a big drain nearby and dug a 12-metre (40-foot)-long tunnel to reach the bank. They then bored their way 1.8 metres (6 feet) upward to reach the strong room.

## Lion King sells 20 million copies in first week

BURBANK, California (AP) — Video shoppers snapped up a record 20 million copies of The Lion King in its first week on sale, the Walt Disney Co. said. The first week volume places The Lion King on track to become the best-selling movie video. The company expects to sell 27 million copies, breaking 24 million record held by Snow White. Only a handful of movies — including Snow White, Aladdin and Beauty and the Beast — have sold more than 20 million copies total. Aladdin sold 10.6 million copies in its first week. The one-week record yielded North American retail sales of \$350 million. The record sales come even with the movie still playing in some theatres. Disney has stepped up production to meet the demand. Lion King videocassettes went on sale Tuesday. Many stores are selling the cassettes at steep discounts, often \$8 or more off the suggested \$26.98 retail price.



This view from the space shuttle Endeavour's Endeavour and her seven astronauts are on cargo bay shows the ASTRO-2 instrument flight-day five of a scheduled 15-day mission to package (left) in the bay with the Earth below. conduct scientific experiments (AFP photo)

## Shuttle telescopes target exploded star

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Endeavour's astronauts aimed powerful ultraviolet telescopes at a newly exploded star that is thousands of times brighter than it was before it burst.

Nova Aquilae erupted in a thermonuclear explosion a month ago. Before reaching this boiling point, the White Dwarf star had been tugging material from its larger companion star and built up a layer of hot gas that eventual-

ly blew up and was hurled into space.

Scientists believe a new buildup of gas will start soon and that another outburst will occur thousands of years from now.

"Even though you just see a pinpoint of light, we can begin to interpret it in terms of drawing a three-dimensional picture of this event," said Arthur Code, an astronomer at the University of Wisconsin at Madison

who is in charge of one of the shuttle telescopes.

Nova Aquilae is in the constellation Aquila, or Eagle, and is several thousand light years away.

Another nova erupted in late January and yet another just a little over a week ago. Both of these also will be viewed by the three ultraviolet telescopes aboard Endeavour so astronomers can learn more about the life cycle of stars.

## Detective in O.J. Simpson case says no other suspects; motives checked out

LOS ANGELES (AP) — One of the detectives in charge of the O.J. Simpson case testified he never considered the possibility that Ronald Goldman, not Simpson's ex-wife, was the primary target of their killer, or that someone other than Simpson committed the murders.

"I had absolutely no other evidence that would point me in any other direction," detective Tom Lange said Monday under cross-examination.

Touching on a defence theory the murders could have been drug-related, Simpson attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. asked whether police investigated that angle. Mr. Lange said authorities looked "superficially" into drugs as a motive, but "in this particular case, we had another direction to go."

Simpson, 47, a professional football Hall of Famer who became an actor and television sports commentator, has pleaded innocent to the killings. He remains jailed without bail.

Mr. Cochran also asked if police looked into the background of Faye Resnick, who lived with Nicole Brown Simpson days before the murders and has admitted past drug problems. The judge barred questions about Ms. Resnick's entry into a drug treatment centre, where she was the night of the crime.

Mr. Lange said his partner, detective Philip Vannatter, interviewed Ms. Resnick on tape. But Mr. Lange said he had never listened to the recording.

Mr. Lange retook the stand after a 10-day interrup-

tion during which the jurors were left on hold at their hotel and housekeeper Rosa Lopez had her alibi testimony videotaped for possible use later in the trial.

"Detective Lange, you haven't retired yet?" Mr. Cochran joked as Mr. Lange took the stand.

"Not yet," Mr. Lange answered in the same deadpan delivery that marked his earlier four days of testimony.

Mr. Cochran took up where he left off, trying to elicit evidence of shoddy policy work and a "rush to judgment" that Simpson was the killer.

"Did you ever consider that Mr. Goldman may have been the targets of the assassins or assassins that particular night? Did you ever consider that at all?" Mr. Cochran asked.

"The targets of an assassin?" Mr. Lange replied, incredulously.

Mr. Cochran then changed his wording to whether Goldman was "the target of... the perpetrator or perpetrators" on June 12, Mr. Lange still seemed mystified.

"Did you ever — as the investigating officer in this case — ever consider any other theory than if O.J. Simpson was the only perpetrator in this case?" Mr. Cochran asked.

The detective said he had no evidence whatsoever that would point in any other direction.

Asked if he considered the possibility that Goldman had been followed to Ms. Simpson's condominium, Mr. Lange said, "I think it's entirely possible he was followed."

"Did you ever consider

that something regarding him or his background may have followed him there, to that location?" Mr. Cochran asked.

"I had no evidence at all to suggest that," Mr. Lange said.

"And so did you ever pursue that or look at it at all?"

"There was nothing to pursue."

Prosecutors have said that Simpson set out to kill his ex-wife and that Goldman happened upon the scene when he went there to return a pair of glasses.

Mr. Lange was preceded to the witness stand Monday by Mark Storf, a former neighbour of Ms. Simpson. Like other prosecution witnesses, he testified that he heard the howling dog that prosecutors say signalled the murders.

Mr. Storf took the stand out of order, before Mr. Lange had finished testifying, because he now lives out of state, Judge Lance Ito told the jury.

Mr. Storf said that he was putting his son to bed on June 12 when he heard the barking about 10:20 p.m. He said that when he returned to his bedroom, the digital clock on the television — which was set 5 minutes fast — read 10:28 p.m.

Meanwhile the key defence witness returned to her homeland Monday and discovered she didn't leave the media frenzy behind. Ms. Lopez went immediately to a relative's home in the provincial town of Santsuqueque, 35 miles east of San Salvador.

"Get away from my house," she yelled at a group of reporters who came to interview her.



## Rebel Muslims inflict major defeat on Bosnian army in Bihac enclave

**BELGRADE (Agencies)** — Breakaway Muslim forces of rebel leader Fikret Abdic have inflicted a major defeat on the Bosnian army in the northwestern Bihac enclave, the rebels' radio station reported.

Radio Velkaton said Abdic forces pushed the Bosnian government army's 5th Corps back by 10 kilometres southward towards the government-held town of Cazvin.

Gains were also made east of the Bihac stronghold of Velika Kladusa in the north of the pocket, the radio said.

Radio Velkaton said more than 1,000 shells were fired in the battle, which lasted 24 hours.

United Nations peacekeepers in the Bihac enclave counted only 150 mortar, artillery or tank rounds since midnight, Monday, U.N. spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon told Reuters in Sarajevo.

While confirming that the fighting was to the south and east of Velika Kladusa, Maj. Gourmelon said it was unclear if either side had made any significant gains.

Restrictions on the movement of U.N. troops imposed by Mr. Abdic's men prevent the peacekeepers from assessing the situation.

On Monday, there was sporadic shelling of the U.N.-declared "safe area" of Bihac town. One shell landed in the town itself, although there were no casualties.

Radio Velkaton said at least 50 5th Corps soldiers had died in the fighting. Another 100 were captured or surrendered. Abdic's men enjoy military support from

Serbs in Croatia who have formed an alliance with the Muslim leader.

The United Nations Tuesday expressed concern over the setting up of a joint military command by Croatia and the Muslim-Croat Bosnian Federation, saying it smacked of war-mongering.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) views the joint command "with great concern as another indication that both Croatia and Bosnia are trying to move away from the peace process towards renewed confrontation," spokesman Alexander Ivankovic said here.

The new command was announced in Zagreb Monday, two weeks after breakaway Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia announced they too had set up a joint military council.

UNPROFOR admitted the decision to set up the joint command in strict terms regarded only Croatia and Bosnia. But it suggested the move — weeks ahead of a pullout of U.N. forces from Croatia — would fuel tension in the region.

UNPROFOR's mandate in Croatia ends at the end of next month. And Zagreb has given the 15,000 peacekeepers stationed in the republic until June 30 to complete their withdrawal. They have been based in the Serb-held Krajina region as a buffer force since 1992.

Croatia has complained that the U.N. force has failed to help it recover Krajina — which represents a quarter of its territory. Breakaway Serbs seized the region during the war that broke out in 1991 when Croatia declared independence from former

Yugoslavia. The joint command, to be headed by Croatian Armed Forces chief General Janko Bobetko, a 76-year-old former Yugoslav commander, was set up under the terms of the Washington accord that led to the setting up of a Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia a year ago and paved the way for confederation with Croatia.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman insisted: "This agreement is not aimed at a third party."

But Croatian television quoted Gen. Bobetko as saying the joint command would be used to "protect the territories, borders and populations living within the federation and confederation and to create the conditions for a return of refugees to their homes."

Up to 300,000 Croats fled their homes in the Krajina region, and perhaps as many Serbs have left government-controlled Croatia.

"It is appropriate to coordinate the political efforts of Croatia and the (Bosnia-Herzegovina) Federation, in particular because of Croatia's decision to end the mandate of the U.N. peacekeepers," Mr. Tudjman also said.

Bosnian army chief General Rasim Delic and the commander of Croat forces in Bosnia, General Tihomir Blaskic, were also appointed to the new command.

"The three generals agreed last night to coordinated action, but joint headquarters haven't been set up yet," Bosnian Federation vice-president Ejup Ganic was quoted as saying Tuesday.

## Veterans recall the bridge at Remagen

**REMAGEN, Germany (R)** — American and German veterans of World War II gathered Tuesday to mark the 50th anniversary of a key Rhine bridge's capture that helped shorten the war and paved the way for their nations to become allies.

Hundreds of U.S. soldiers who fought with the 9th Armoured Division returned to the sleepy town where they made history a half-century ago by capturing the bridge, letting the allies pour men and heavy equipment into the German heartland.

"The seizure of this bridge hastened in large or in small measure the end of the war in Europe. And anything that shortens a war by even five minutes deserves commemoration," said Major General George Ruhlman, head of the division's veterans group.

It was a day for the veterans, many back in Europe for the first time in 50 years, to reminisce, to swap war stories with old buddies and to meet German counterparts they once saw only through gun sights.

Squeezed into parts of their old uniforms and squinting in the bright sunshine that lit up American and German flags flying from the blackened towers that are all that remain of the span, old soldiers turned their thoughts to days of youth and danger.

"I had a lot of good friends who never came back," said Colonel Robert Dill from Winchester, Kansas, who was a supply officer when he first saw the railway bridge that was the last span across the Rhine 50 years ago.

"I was happy to see it, that's for sure," he said. "We could always get stuff across the river by air, but if we didn't have the bridge, we couldn't get big things like trucks across."

Astonished that their demolition charges failed at the crucial moment and left the bridge intact for the advancing allies, German defenders tried their best to knock it down with artillery, aerial bombs, rockets and even frogmen.

"I remember that it looked like a sheet of fire as German planes came by," Mr. Dill recalled. "It was in the evening and it looked like the air was filled with nothing but bullets."

Stanley Dibble from Middlebury, Connecticut, manned an artillery battery near the bridge he had been shocked to see still standing. Enemy fire was so intense that he often had to climb into holes and cover up to save himself.

"It was the first time we had ever seen a jet," he recalled. "We did not know what they were as they came zipping across the sky. Finally we got the order to just stop firing because we could not hit them."

For Dale Taylor of Abilene, Kansas, the return to Remagen was his first trip back to Europe since the war. "I wasn't worried about coming back," he said as a bus carrying him and his buddies rolled through town on the way to ceremonies marking the day.

The bridge stood only 10 days before it collapsed into the Rhine on March 17, sweeping 28 U.S. soldiers to their deaths. But by that time pontoon bridges were carrying streams of material onto the Rhine's eastern bank.

"Do you know why the bridge collapsed? Saint Patrick heard that the British were coming and he was damned if he was going to let them get across that easy," joked John Leonard Jr., son of the 9th Armoured Division commander at that time.

German veterans said they knew the war was lost long before the allies took the bridge.

"We were convinced that the taking of the bridge would have no impact on the course of the war," said Lieutenant-Major Karl Thieme, the armoured infantry commander who led an unsuccessful counterattack. "It was senseless what happened here."

He and other German officers spoke highly of their erstwhile enemies, especially of the respect German units were accorded when they capitulated at war's end. This helped veterans' organisations on both sides forge close ties.

## De Gaulle's son supports Chirac Ballardur set to fight back

**PARIS (Agencies)** — Prime Minister Edouard Ballardur will now launch a challenger's campaign for the French presidency in a bid to bounce back from the collapse of his popularity in opinion polls, according to his top electoral aides.

Spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy said Mr. Ballardur, who has been overtaken by his main rivaling rival Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac seven weeks before the first round of voting, was suffering from a "regular heavy shelling" from his opponents, but insisted he would survive.

"It would be astonishing if the opinion polls didn't go down, considering the regular heavy shelling under way against both his actions and him in person," Mr. Sarkozy said.

"Now that the polls have gone down, we have to be like the challenger, and that is fine by us. We have to be a good player."

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, the conservative premier's right-hand man, said he was "very optimistic" about Mr. Ballardur's chances of fighting back, and said the prime minister would not change tack to please voters who opinion polls indicate have deserted him in large numbers in recent weeks.

Mr. Ballardur, for months the clear frontrunner in the race to succeed President Francois Mitterrand, has in the last two weeks seen his poll lead of more than 20 points collapse against both Mr. Chirac and leftwing challenger Lionel Jospin.

Three polls in the last five days have given Mr. Chirac a lead in the race for the first time, sparking pressure on the Ballardur camp to rethink its strategy.

"The most stupid thing a candidate could do would be to present himself not as he is, but how his advisors think he should be," said Mr. Pasqua.



French Prime Minister and conservative presidential candidate Edouard Ballardur (centre) flanked by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua (left), and Defence Minister Francois Leotard (right), delivers a speech in Nice, on the French Riviera, where he laid the foundation stone of the town's new university (AFP photo)

qua. "M. Ballardur is how he is. He is a calm, serene man. He must stay that way."

In a reference to Mr. Ballardur's conceived complacency, he added: "But he must also give the French people the feeling that his calmness does not exclude determination."

And he added: "It is quite normal that the prime minister should drop in the polls from the moment he announces his candidacy, and becomes a target for everyone else."

"We now have to begin the electoral battle ourselves. We have not yet done so."

The son of late French President Charles De Gaulle gave symbolic weight to the presidential bid of Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac Tuesday, defending him from charges of betraying his father's legacy.

Philippe De Gaulle, a French senator, wrote in an article in the daily Le Figaro

that his father's ideas would "no longer have counted as a political force" without Mr. Chirac, who founded the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) party in 1976.

Opponents accuse Mr. Chirac, a former prime minister who overtook Mr. Ballardur last week in opinion polls ahead of the April-May election, of veering left to court votes.

But Philippe De Gaulle quoted his father as saying in 1965: "France isn't the left, France isn't the right" it's everyone, it's the entire French people."

Philippe De Gaulle also hit out at Mr. Ballardur, backed by almost all his cabinet ministers to succeed President Francois Mitterrand, for joining the race last month when Mr. Chirac was the sole RPR candidate.

"It would have been preferable... to have let the prime minister, whose qual-

ities are unquestionable, to continue governing" to avoid what Mr. De Gaulle called a regrettable double candidacy.

Philippe De Gaulle rejected suggestions Mr. Ballardur was a better candidate for unity, saying Mr. Chirac had worked "without respite to unite all political and social movements not burdened by a systematic and sectarian opposition to the general."

Meanwhile, Socialist Party presidential candidate Lionel Jospin unveiled his campaign platform Tuesday, putting the fight against France's chronic joblessness at the heart of his bid for the Elysee Palace.

The leftwing leader, who has led the French left from disarray to become a key contender in next month's poll, also urged a wide raft of measures to bring France out of what he called its "crisis," including a new tax on speculative investment.

## Polish premier declares war on gangs

**WARSAW (R)** — Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy took office declaring war on Poland's increasingly dangerous gangsters and he called key ministers together Tuesday to decide how to crush them.

Even before President Lech Walesa swore the new cabinet in Monday night, the ex-Communist Oleksy said he would appoint a new national police chief, Jerzy Stanczyk.

"I believe that you will be a

commander...who will deal with these bandits posing a threat to Polish people," Mr. Oleksy, once a minister in Poland's last Communist government, told Chief Stanczyk at a late-evening meeting.

Mr. Oleksy's spokeswoman announced that public security would be the first subject on the agenda of the first meeting of the new government and that Mr. Oleksy would convene and personally chair a committee charged

with fighting organised crime. Polish cities have been rocked by increasingly frequent bomb blasts as rival gangs settle scores, intimidate victims or fight for turf.

In 1994, there were 141 bombs found or planted, of which 82 went off, while this year there have been nine bomb blasts in Warsaw alone. Just before Mr. Oleksy was sworn in another device was found and defused in a Warsaw car wash.

## Gunmen kill Pakistani Shiite leader

**LAHORE, Pakistan (R)** — Gunmen killed a leader of a militant Shiite Muslim organisation and his bodyguard in the Pakistan city of Lahore Tuesday, police said.

They said gunmen on a motorcycle shot Mohammad Ali Naqvi, a member of the Supreme Council of Tehrik-I-Jafria Pakistan (TJP), as he drove to work at about eight a.m. (0300 GMT).

Mr. Naqvi, hit in the chest, died instantly. His bodyguard was wounded and died in hospital. Three passersby, two of them children, were wounded in the hail of gunfire.

The gunmen escaped and there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the killings.

After the attack, TJP supporters staged angry protests on the central Muktan Road, burning tyres, throwing stones, smashing car windows and shooting in the air, witnesses said.

The TJP has been locked in a vendetta with the rival mili-

tant Sunni Muslim Sipah-I-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) organisation in which scores of people have been killed in recent months.

TJP leader blamed the provincial government for failing to ensure security.

"The Punjab government is responsible for this incident as it has not taken steps to eliminate terrorist groups," said Sajid Raza, head of the TJP's Inamania Student Organisation.

Mr. Naqvi, the first president of the TJP's militant student wing, was a doctor at the prestigious Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Lahore and was chairman of the TJP's Education Council.

A married man aged about 40 with a neatly trimmed beard, Mr. Naqvi was known as an active, intelligent organiser.

His assassination followed an attack in the Punjab provincial city of Jhang Sunday in which gunmen killed six people, including former provincial assembly member

Sheikh Mohammad Iqbal, a known opponent of the SSP.

A police spokesman said Jhang, where SSP leader Azam Tariq has his headquarters, was calm Tuesday amid tough security measures. He said three police armoured personnel carriers were patrolling the streets and many arrests had been made.

Meanwhile, Murtaza Bhutto, estranged brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said he plans to launch a rival political movement on March 15.

Ms. Bhutto's government has "pushed the country to the verge of economic collapse," Murtaza Bhutto said Monday evening. "The sooner the government is ousted, the better for the country."

Murtaza Bhutto, 41, faces a host of legal problems and has inspired only limited political support since his 1993 return from 16 years in exile. Most observers see him as a nuisance, but not a serious threat to Ms. Bhutto.

## Mandela to divorce soon — daughter

**JOHANNESBURG (R)** — South African President Nelson Mandela is likely to divorce his estranged wife Winnie soon, the couple's youngest daughter has said.

Zindzi Mandela-Hlongwane said in a magazine interview people within the ruling African National Congress (ANC) were putting pressure on the 76-year-old president to divorce Mrs. Mandela.

"Officially they are not yet divorced. But most likely that will come about, for I sense pressure on him to distance himself definitely from her," Zindzi said in the interview published in the March issue of South Africa's glossy Thandi magazine.

"My father and mother don't see each other anymore... as if they don't exist for each other," Zindzi added.

Spokesmen for both President Mandela and Mrs. Mandela refused to comment on the likelihood of divorce saying the matter was private.

The president who spent 27 years in jail and Mrs. Mande-

la, 61, have been separated since 1992.

Mrs. Mandela who is deputy arts, culture, science and technology minister, has been embroiled in controversy on several occasions before and after the separation.

Last week police raided her luxury home in Johannesburg's Soweto township in connection with a fraud and a corruption investigation while she was on an unauthorized trip to West Africa.

Mrs. Mandela has challenged the validity of the search warrant. Her application will be heard on March 14.

President Mandela has ordered Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to look into the charges, which have threatened Mrs. Mandela's position in the government and as the head of the Women's League of the ANC.

Mr. Mbeki's spokesman Ricky Naidoo said the deputy president had received a letter from Mrs. Mandela, saying she could not meet him immediately.

He said Mr. Mbeki had tried to get in touch with Mrs. Mandela Monday.

"The whole thing is very complicated with the police investigation still underway, but obviously her trip to West Africa will have to be discussed. That was against the president's wishes," Mr. Naidoo said.

Mrs. Mandela's spokesman, Alan Reynolds, said her legal application had to take precedence. "The legal matters must take precedence right now. I think that will be her first priority."

Police have said they are investigating allegations that she used her position and influence to win low-cost housing contracts in the Gauteng region around Johannesburg for a firm in which she had financial interests.

Zindzi said the pressure her father was being put under to divorce, came from within the ANC.

"Closing the Winnie Mandela period will also be an end to the militant part of his life. That is their idea," she said.

## Moscow mayor threatens to quit over sackings

**MOSCOW (R)** — Moscow's powerful mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, said Tuesday he would go ahead with a threat to resign unless President Boris Yeltsin cancelled the sackings of the city's top law enforcers.

Mr. Luzhkov, seen as a potential rival to Mr. Yeltsin in the 1996 presidential elections, added that if Monday's formal dismissal of prosecutor Gennady Ponomarev and Police Chief Vladimir Pankratov were not rescinded he would challenge the legality of the decisions in the courts.

Mr. Luzhkov's announcement was a challenge to Mr. Yeltsin to reverse a process he himself started by publicly calling for the dismissal of the two men following the mafia-style murder on March 1 of television celebrity Vladimir Lisyev.

The murder of Mr. Lisyev, 38, a top anchorman and chat show host known to millions across the former Soviet Union, plunged Russia into grief and raised fresh public concern about the ability of the authorities to combat organised crime.

Mr. Luzhkov, a one-time political ally of Mr. Yeltsin, has increasingly steered an independent line. He has fought a long campaign to exempt Moscow from the government's privatisation programme.

Mr. Luzhkov, quoted by Interfax News Agency, said

the dismissal of the two men amounted to a "violation of the constitution, the law of the police and the president's decree on the police in Moscow."

But Oleg Lobov, secretary of Russia's Security Council which met Monday to discuss law and order, said Tuesday the dismissal of the two men had been supported by all members of the Council.

Mr. Lobov told a news conference the council wasted some \$110 million, slashed from the 1995 draft budget, to be reinstated to fund the fight against crime.

He said the government had proposed one trillion roubles (\$220 million) of budget money be spent on fighting crime but that deputies had halved this at the third reading of the draft.

"I think that at the fourth reading the Duma deputies

have got to come back to this question in connection with recent events."

He said the council, chaired by Mr. Yeltsin and grouping the main law enforcement and defence bodies, also wanted parliament to pass a law to protect judges.

In a two-hour discussion Monday of the worsening crime situation, which Mr. Lobov said was prompted by Mr. Lisyev's killing, the Security Council also discussed the need to improve the training of investigators.

The council, which condemned the Interior Ministry, Security Police and prosecutors for falling down on the job, said no improvement had been seen in the fight against crime.

Mr. Lobov said 2.6 million crimes were committed last year, including 32,000 mur-

ders, of which about a million were unsolved.

The total number of crimes had fallen by about 100,000 from 1993 but the number still not solved had risen.

Three suspected hired killers have been detained for questioning over the slaying of Mr. Lisyev, police said Tuesday.

Quoted by the news agency ITAR-TASS, they said the three men had recently arrived in Moscow from Siberia and were also suspected of killing several oil industry executives in the Russian capital.

Kremlin officials, police and the media all maintain that Mr. Lisyev, 38, was the victim of a contract killing organised by businessmen who were trying to block television advertising reforms aimed at ending massive corruption.



Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin (centre) gestures during his speech at the sitting of the State Security Council as Defence Minister Pavel Grachev (right) and Yevgeni Primakov, the head of Russia's intelligence, listen. The situation in Russia (AFP photo)

## Election violence kills 11 people in India

**NEW DELHI (R)** — At least 11 people died in election-related violence in two Indian regions as the eastern state of Orissa went to the polls Tuesday in a fresh test for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party.

Six people, including three candidates and a Railway Police constable, were killed Monday during the first phase of local elections in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, police said.

At least five people died in a clash between suspected Maoist extremists and villagers in the eastern state of Bihar, local news agencies reported.

Nearly 50 people have been killed in Bihar, where the Federal Election Com-

mission had postponed assembly polls to give the state time to deploy thousands of security troops. Voting will start Saturday.

The Bihar government replaced a senior bureaucrat and the state police chief Monday after the Election Commission complained that lack of coordination between the two had jeopardised security.

Campaigning in Bihar, Tuesday, Mr. Rao said the replacement of the two officials "spoke volumes about the breakdown of law and order in the state," the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Mr. Rao accused the opposition Janata Dal state

government of turning the state into a backward region. PTI said He said 25,000 people had been killed there since the last assembly elections in 1990, adding: "At least Bihar is in the forefront in one sphere."

Bihar and Orissa are among six states holding assembly elections that are considered crucial to Mr. Rao's government.

Voting began peacefully Tuesday in Orissa, where 58,000 police were deployed in sensitive areas, state officials said.

The state elections have no direct bearing on the composition of parliament in New Delhi, but Mr. Rao's authority was shaken when his ruling Congress Party suffered

defeats in three of four states that held elections late last year.

Last month Congress emerged as the largest party in the small northeastern state of Manipur, the only state in the current round of polls where votes have already been counted.

But it rules over a hung assembly, and a coalition of other parties in Manipur has challenged Congress's grip on power.

Congress is expected to stay in power in the north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, but to lose control over the Western state of Gujarat and remain in the opposition in Orissa and Bihar.



## Jordan Times

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## Litmus test of faith

THE ADDRESS delivered by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the opening session of Tuesday's meeting on the fate of the Palestinians displaced by the 1967 war was more of a lesson in obfuscation than a real attempt to solve the issue at hand. Not that it came as any surprise, since Israel has been doing its best to veil its commitment to accepting the right of all displaced Palestinians to return to their homes or receive compensation as a matter of individual choice.

The Israelis are mistaken if they seriously think that confusing and stalling on the right of return is the answer to solving the difficult issues that lie ahead on the road to comprehensive and lasting peace. They should know that without respecting their own commitment and international legitimacy, the climate conducive to achieving breakthroughs will never materialise.

We hope we are wrong, but we think that what Mr. Peres sought to do in the Amman meeting on Tuesday was to undermine the Palestinians' right of return by raising ambiguous questions over numbers, modalities, timetables, and by appealing to the international community to help build infrastructure to absorb them without making a definite Israeli commitment to respect U.N. resolutions and accords with the three Arab parties he was meeting with.

Little consideration was given to the commitments Israel undertook in its Camp David agreement with Egypt, its declaration of principles with the Palestinians and the peace treaty it signed with Jordan in October, we thought.

We have no quarrel with the Israeli argument that the return of the displaced Palestinians should take place in an orderly fashion without disrupting the stability of any of the parties involved. We also do realise how difficult it is to imagine the massive return of hundreds of thousands of people in one go to a land which lacks the basic infrastructure and holds out all prospects of a socio-economic upheaval in the event of a huge infusion of people. But that does not mean that the sacred right of return can be compromised.

What we would have liked to hear from Mr. Peres is simple and clear: Israel recognises and respects the right of the Palestinians who were forced to flee their homes during the 1967 war and that it is ready to work out the modalities and timetables for their return home in a well-organised manner.

Beyond such a commitment, the reality is that an Israeli pledge that it would respect the Palestinians' rights and is ready to allow their return home, would have gone a good way towards shoring up the sagging support on Arab streets for the autonomy accord. By sending an unmistakable message that Israel intends to place as many obstacles as possible in the way of achieving Palestinians' legitimate rights, Israel can only retard the cause of peace.

This is a crucial phase in which everybody has to show good faith. The Israelis, who have always sought to win confidence-building measures from the Arabs, have to prove they are ready with theirs. It should not be too difficult for them to honour their own commitments as far as the issue of the displaced Palestinians is concerned.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMBIANIST for Al Ra'i Arabic daily attacked the U.S. administration for trying to starve and murder the Iraqi people and for finding excuses to perpetuate the U.N. sanctions. The U.S. administration lies to the world when it says that it is imposing a blockade on the Iraqis to force a change of government in Baghdad, because the same administration is imposing an embargo also on the Kurds in the north, Tareq Masarweh said. The Americans who committed crimes in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with their atomic bombs, are intent on repeating the crime and murdering 18 million Arabs and Kurds, the writer said. What is clear now is Washington's desire to control the destiny of the Iraqi people by imposing further humiliation on the Iraqis and trying to seize their oil wealth and secure business solely for the American firms. Blaming Turkey for not doing enough to end the embargo that has cost Ankara \$20 billion in lost business so far, the writer said that Turkey is paying the price of aligning itself with the Western coalition in the war against Iraq.

DISCUSSING a meeting in Amman by the foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Al Dustour daily said that the talks which focus on the destiny of displaced Palestinians were of paramount importance for the peace process to achieve success. Israel was being put to the test again and the Arab parties, which had already reached a common stand over the repatriation of the Palestinians, would be watching to see if Israel was committed to the implementation of the declaration of principles reached with the PLO, said the paper. The meeting in Amman assumed significance not only because it was held at the foreign ministers level but rather due to the crucial question at hand, the paper noted. Indeed, if Israel failed to live up to its commitments and implement its deals with the Arabs on the basis of justice and right, the whole peace process could be jeopardised.

## Washington Watch

# The necessity for pressure on administration

By Dr. James Zogby

THE ISSUE of whether or not to use public pressure to affect Israeli government actions and/or policies is one that confronts every U.S. administration.

On the single issue of granting \$10 billion in loan guarantees to the Israeli government in 1991, the Bush administration used such pressure. The effect of this tactic on the U.S. Jewish community was somewhat traumatic, but it succeeded in forcing a debate within the Israeli body politic, and ultimately achieved a democratic change of government in Israel.

While many of Israel's supporters continue to deny that Bush's actions contributed to Yitzhak Rabin's victory over Yitzhak Shamir and the Likud, there is no doubt that the question of the worsening of U.S.-Israeli relations brought on by Mr. Shamir's policy fit in with Mr. Rabin's campaign themes and played an important role in his electoral success.

The fight over the loan guarantees, however, was a single exceptional act of the U.S. administration. As soon as Mr. Rabin was elected, the Bush administration approved the loan guarantees to Israel on terms that provided significant loopholes in implementation. In doing so, Mr. Bush failed to take advantage of the change in attitude his action achieved, actually giving the Israelis more generous terms than the Congress wished to impose.

The question of whether or not to use public pressure in dealing with Israel has been an issue for President Bill Clinton as well.

In 1992, seeking to establish the differences he had with the Bush administration, then Democratic candidate for President Clinton remarked that as president, he would not use public pressure to alter Israeli behaviour. Specifically concerning Israeli settlements and the question of guaranteeing loans for Israel.

Mr. Clinton stated: "Certainly the settlement policy (of the Israeli government) has not been helpful to the peace process," but "what I do in private is different from what I would do in public."

In fact, on most Middle East issues, candidate Clinton (and, since the election, President Clinton) has followed the same basic approach outlined by his predecessor in the White House. The one glaring difference is that one-time use of public pressure by the Bush administration on the Shamir government.

Mr. Clinton's commitment to refrain from using public pressure has characterised the way his administration has dealt with the Middle East peace process since the 1992 election.

During his confirmation hearings before the Senate, U.S. designate ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk spoke of this commitment as one of the five operating principles that the Clinton administration has "established for the conduct of relations with the state of Israel."

In his Senate testimony Mr. Indyk, who for the past two years served as director of Near East and South Asian Affairs on President Clinton's National Security Council, said: "The fourth guiding principle is that in pursuing this peace, and in recognition of the fact that Israel is our democratic ally with which we share common values and common interests, this administration will work with the government of Israel, not against it. Where we have differences, as is inevitable, even with the closest of allies, we will work them out in private, and we do work them out in private."

While this policy has its strong supporters within the admini-

stration, there are also some who question it as well. But the proponents of no pressure hold sway in the policy debates. Their view is based both on their perception of what they view as "real politics" (after all, they might suggest, look at the political price Mr. Bush paid for his one-time act of alienating Israel's supporters) and a deeply held belief that given the volatility of Israeli politics, more can be accomplished with quiet diplomacy. I believe that both of these viewpoints are misguided.

An analysis of the U.S.-Israeli relationship since the election of Mr. Rabin in mid-1992 shows a remarkable consistency between the Bush-Baker and the Clinton-Christopher tenures. When necessary, Mr. Clinton denied Israel and its supporters favours they sought. For example convicted spy Jonathan Pollard was not released, the sale of supercomputers to Israel was denied, and Mr. Indyk himself took a strong stand in cautioning the U.S. Senate against taking steps to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

Even Secretary of State Warren Christopher's handling of Mr. Rabin's outrageous expulsion of 400 Palestinians to Lebanon bore a strong similarity to Mr. Baker's ultimate compromise with Mr. Rabin on the issue of settlements and loan guarantees. In both cases, the U.S. agreed to accept short-term violations of rights in an effort to secure long-term Israeli compliance with a principle.

While the Clinton administration does prod Israel on a regular basis, it does so very quietly and out of public view on issues affecting the peace process and Israel's relationship with the Palestinians.

And, of course, the fact remains that the peace process is in deep trouble. New settlements are being built, Arab Jerusalem has become a virtual no-man's land, and Israel's extreme preoccupation with security has frustrated even the most modest Palestinian hopes for peace.

Intense public pressure, both Israeli and American, is placed on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to take stern measures against his domestic opposition — and not only those who commit acts of violence. And today the right-wing opposition in Israel is the driving force in that country's political debate: that is, while the Rabin government attempts to hold its line, it is forever responding to Likud attacks on its policies and challenges to its legitimacy. As a result, Mr. Rabin is frequently forced to accommodate this pressure from the right by shifting his policy rightward.

All of this is, in fact, due to the absence of U.S. pressure on Israel and its policies which negatively impact chances for peace. Such U.S. pressure, if applied would once again force the Israelis themselves to debate their actions affecting the peace process, and could actually provide a counterweight in Rabin's favour against the Likud charges.

Not all of Mr. Clinton's advisors or supporters of Israel agree with University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Professor Steven Spiegel (who advised the Clinton foreign policy team during the 1992 presidential election). Speaking recently at a forum at the UCLA School of Law, Professor Spiegel spoke favourably of what he termed the Clinton administration's "laissez faire" stance towards the peace process, and contrasted it with what he called the negative Bush-Baker interventionist

policy. It was this "hands-off" approach which Dr. Spiegel credited with bringing the Israelis and PLO to Oslo, bringing the Israelis and Jordanians together, and so on.

While I would argue vehemently against this view, it is important to note that not all Israelis or even Jewish American Clinton advisors agree with Dr. Spiegel's assessment.

At an earlier time in the peace process (November of 1992), Israeli columnist Ran Kislav wrote in Ha'aretz of the need for U.S. public pressure to move Israel towards a peace settlement. Mr. Kislav wrote, in part: "A government moving in such a direction will have to face tremendous domestic pressure, not only from the settlers, who are threatening civil war, or the Likud, which is ready to lead thousands into the streets, but pressure from within the government and Labour's lively hawkish camp. The government will need counterpressure, not necessarily of the kind inherent in the empty threats of Peace Now. What is needed is pressure from a position of strength — that is, U.S. pressure."

Professor Michael Mandelbaum, another 1992 Clinton advisor, has also noted earlier examples of successful U.S. public pressure leading Israeli governments to do what they needed to do. Describing U.S. pressures on Israel in 1975 to achieve a disengagement agreement with Egypt, Professor Mandelbaum observed:

"Israel's leaders were not altogether unhappy with (U.S.) pressure. They wanted agreement with their neighbours... but this required concessions and the Israeli public was wary of surrendering territory... The government found it convenient to blame American pressure, which they could say left them no choice but to yield."

In the absence of a strong public critique of Israeli actions — Palestinians — and Israelis, who want this peace process to work, stand defenceless against an angry public opinion that is incited by the demagoguery of the leaders of the Israeli right wing.

The distortion in the Palestinian and Israeli societies which result from this absence of pressure on Israel has in turn set the stage for a tragedy. The window of opportunity that exists for the peace process is rapidly closing. It will not be so easy to recapture the hope brought on by the handshake on the White House lawn almost 18 months ago.

If this moment passes, I fear that there will be serious negative consequences for the entire region and for the U.S. role in the Middle East. There are those in the administration who truly understand the nature and the depth of this crisis and the urgency of the response it requires.

Of all the tools at their disposal to combat this crisis, the mechanism of public pressure is glaring in its absence. In an effort to bring it to bear on the problem, it is worth noting that such pressure need not be negative and critical. It could be positive and constructive — but it must be used. It would be an important complement to the other political and economic assets in the administration's arsenal.

It is essential that such pressure be brought into the equation. Because only a strong external pressure can alter the negative public debate that is disabling both the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships. And only a change in the distorting debate in Israel can restore a sense of hope and a vision of the possibilities of peace.

## U.S. leaders differ on world role

What role should the U.S. assume in the new world order era? Walter R. Mears of the Associated Press analyses the question:

WASHINGTON — When Washington's three most powerful figures defined visions of America's world role, they talked like allies on the need for U.S. leadership but sounded like rivals on where and how to enforce it. President Bill Clinton complained of new isolationists, aiming at Republicans, an accusation that is sure to resound through his campaign for a second term next year.

Bob Dole, leader of the new Republican majority in the Senate, came with a list of what he deems missteps by the administration. He said pre-emptive military action could one day be needed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. Mr. Dole seeks the Republican nomination to challenge the president in 1996.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Republican who says he is not running for president, was in his professorial mode. He concentrated on economic and other common interests as the way to weld a high-technology world. But he also declared that "the United States must lead, period" with tough-minded policies and a military so powerful as to dominate whenever it must.

While the president took on isolationism, the real debate isn't over U.S. power and leadership but, rather, whether to proceed internationally or unilaterally, with Americans picking the spots and calling the shots.

Mr. Clinton took the occasion, a conference sponsored by the Richard M. Nixon Library, to underline the point that he's in charge and he'll make the decisions. He announced one on the spot, the withdrawal of 200 tonnes of nuclear weapons materials from the U.S. stockpile to show his commitment to a strengthened and permanent nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Earlier, after conferring with Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok, Mr. Clinton dealt with his chief dispute with the House Republicans, saying he intends to keep the United States involved in U.N. peacekeeping missions and not "walk away as some suggest we should" in Congress. "It is a policy that under our constitution I can pursue as long as I am the president," he said, adding that Congress could deny him the funds.

The House has voted to cut

the U.S. contribution to U.N. peacekeeping, and to restrict Mr. Clinton's authority to use U.S. troops under foreign commanders. Mr. Gingrich was vehement about imposing those restrictions, part of a Republican foreign policy bill the White House has threatened to veto if it gets there. That's up to the Senate, sure to revise the measure if it passes at all.

The speaker didn't mention that disputed issue at the policy conference; he said there's a need "to erase the board" and change old systems to deal with a new world, on matters of defence, technology and, particularly, trade. He suggested a free trade zone encompassing Europe as well as North America. And he said the alternative to U.S. world leadership is "a dark and bloody planet" in the 21st century.

"I am always curious when there is some presumption we are in any way isolationist," he said.

There is. "You get the impression that there is a certain tendency toward isolationism, stepping back somewhat from the international scene," Mr. Kok said at the White House last week. "And that would be very risky, to put it mildly."

Mr. Clinton warned against it at the Nixon conference. "There is a struggle going on between those of us who want to carry on the tradition of American leadership and those who would advocate a new American isolationism," he said.

No names, and he said the tendency spans party lines. He then called it hypocritical to trumpet American strength while opposing its use in places like Haiti — as Mr. Dole does — and U.N. peacekeeping.

Mr. Dole's line was toughest, notably on nuclear spread.

"Preventive military action as a non-proliferation policy tool cannot be ruled out," he said. "Like it or not, it cannot be ruled out." He called Mr. Clinton's misguided "Russia first policy" that papers over major policy differences.

He said the administration is timidly pleading rather than voting a veto if there is an attempt to ease U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

"The senator is simply misinformed," said Mr. Clinton's national security adviser, Anthony Lake.



## Death toll list reminds Algerians that the worst is still to come

By John Baggaley  
Reuters

NICOSIA — The chilling statistic of slaughter released for the first time by Algeria's military authorities at the weekend — 6,388 civilians slain in one year — is only a bloody signal of worse to come, diplomats said on Sunday. Algeria's security forces, whose own death toll in the grim war against Muslim fundamentalists is rigorously suppressed, issued the list without comment as Eid Al Fitr, one of the Muslim country's main festivals, ended.

"They are trying to get the people on their side and prepare them for more vicious attacks to come," said one Western diplomat in the region who has closely followed the three-year-old Algerian conflict.

"For such figures, it was a very bland announcement. It will be interesting to see if they follow up in the next few days."

The death toll just of civilians, which another diplomat termed a "vast underestimate," showed that in 1994 more than 17 ordinary Algerians were killed every single day.

No segment of Algeria's 26-million, largely poverty-stricken population, was

safe. The dead included 21 journalists murdered, 682 civil servants, 101 teachers, 2,207 workers, 1,384 of the unemployed who form more than one-fifth of those of working age.

Seven top officials were also gunned down, along with 15 magistrates, 52 mosque preachers or imams, the leaders of two political parties, a singer and a regional wali, or governor.

"The security forces are losing the battle," said another diplomat. "But maybe the authorities think that by putting out the figures they can show the danger facing ordinary people and that if they don't back the authorities it will be even worse."

Already this year, the toll has soared among civilians. Death has come suddenly, anywhere. Like last Friday when 15 men broke into a Palestinian student's home east of Algiers, dragged him out and slit his throat, dumping his body 100 yards away.

In sunlit, crowded Port Said Square in the centre of the capital, where last month in the early afternoon the national theatre director was gunned down outside his own theatre.

Or in a Kabylly mountain village where a taxidriver

was buried alive. Beheadings, shootings, bombings, torture, and the slitting of throats — of men, women and even children, lie behind the unemotional figures cited by the security forces and carried on the official news agency APS.

According to Western estimates late last year, at least 30,000 people have been killed since violence erupted after the authorities in January 1992 scrapped a general election that Islamic fundamentalists were poised to win.

Many more have been killed this year, including at least 42 officially acknowledged dead in a January suicide bomb carried out in central Algiers by the feared armed Islamic group (GIA).

Another diplomat suggested that issuing the death toll could be aimed at easing foreign pressure on the authorities over last month's bloody suppression of a mainly fundamentalist riot in Algiers' Serkadji Prison near the Casbah.

Nearly 100 prisoners were slain when security forces moved in after four wardens, held hostage, had their throats slit.

"They may also be doing it to try to swing the people behind president (Liamine)

Zeroual's plan to hold presidential elections this year — effectively telling the people they have no choice, between that or continuing to be killed," he said.

Diplomats say that despite efforts by France, Germany and Belgium to crack down on arms supplies and a logistical network to the GIA and the other main armed group, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the groups seem to have no shortage of weapons.

The GIA, which hijacked an Air France plane after a French crackdown on Islamists in France, at the weekend warned Belgium of reprisals if men detained in a similar swoop were not freed.

"There seems no immediate prospect of them lacking the means to continue their fight," said one diplomat recently. "They also have a well-structured support system — transport, medical supplies, bomb-making facilities. One big worry is on the other side — equipment and ammunition for the armed forces."

"A lot is being stolen by the Islamists and the Algerians are not finding too many people to sell to them."

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# Middle East News

## Palestinian television still going through birth pangs

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP)** — Three months after Palestinian television began broadcasting, hardly anyone can pick up the pictures as negotiations drag on with Israel over transmitter sites, frequencies and equipment imports.

Western aid has proved barely a trickle while talks with the Jewish state about frequencies and setting up transmitters have bogged down and Israeli customs hold up the arrival of free equipment.

But the setbacks have not undermined the determination of Radwan Abu Ayash, the director of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC).

"I really believe that all Palestinian homes will be able to watch Palestinian television before the end of the year," he told AFP.

The PBC was conceived with the 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy followed by a formal agreement to set up the service signed on Feb. 25 last year.

Staff worked for 18 months on a volunteer basis to get the project off the ground.

As the PBC still has no budget, salary advances have been paid recently by the Palestinian Authority. Journalists receive about \$400 a month.

"We want to set up our headquarters in Ramallah because the town is the only one which is high enough for our broadcasts to cover all the West Bank," Mr. Abu Ayash said.

"Israel has not agreed and insists that the headquarters

be in Gaza or Jericho. But we have already bought a five-storey building in Ramallah and we will set up our television there whether Israel wants it or not."

However, the director said the two sides were nearing an agreement on frequencies.

Britain and the United States supplied some equipment but the PBC is still short of two powerful transmitters to cover the West Bank.

"Israeli customs held up a gift of studio equipment from Germany for four months demanding payment of duty. The duty was not paid and the equipment was sent back to Germany."

"The same thing happens with all the equipment. At best, it's been held up for customs for two or three months and at worst sent back to the donor country."

"The agreement signed with Israel stipulates that donations of television equipment are free of duty," Mr. Abu Ayash said.

He added that Israel was also preventing the return home of some qualified technicians needed to help run the PBC.

About 150 people put out an eight-hour "experimental" programme every day in Gaza City.

But only those living close by the transmission tower parked outside PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's office can pick up the pictures. News bulletins are dominated by what Mr. Arafat is doing the news team works from the same building as Mr. Arafat.

## Shin Bet concerned over report of comptriller

**TEL AVIV (AP)** — Israel's security service, the Shin Bet, is reorganising its interrogations division and trying to end the use of force during questioning, a senior security source said.

The Yediot Aharanot daily said Monday that a secret report prepared a month ago by state comptroller Miriam Ben-Porath criticised the agency's interrogation methods and said it continued a practice of covering them up.

A top official in Shin Bet confirmed that the agency was concerned the comptroller's report would lead to a criminal investigation of some of the interrogators and their superiors.

"The whole issue embarrasses the Shin Bet," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The revelations came a week after former Shin Bet chief Yacov Perry, whose identity had been a secret during his seven-year term, retired and was revealed to the general public.

On Monday Mr. Perry testified behind closed doors before parliament's comptroller committee. He told Channel Two Television that the leaked report in the newspaper was "very grave," but refused to provide any other details from his testimony.

Security sources said agency lawyers were already preparing a defence in case Mr. Ben-Porath decided to recommend that charges be pressed against Mr. Perry.

The report focuses on the years 1989 to 1992, when Mr.

Perry was the organisation's senior administrator.

It makes reference to a 1987 inquiry commission on Shin Bet techniques, headed by Justice Moshe Landau, that criticised the agency for years of systematic perjury but permitted the use of "mild physical pressure" in interrogations.

According to Yediot, the new report finds that in several cases the Shin Bet went beyond what was permissible according to the Landau commission.

The official said the agency's new chief, who may only be referred to as K., has ordered a reorganisation of the organisation's interrogation division.

"From many of the reports it can be understood that we have a free hand to torture," a senior security source said.

"To part of the public and maybe some of the interrogators, it is not clear, so we will write it on every door, what is and is not allowed," the security source said.

"We don't even need the 'moderate physical pressure' permitted by the Landau commission, except in extreme cases where it can be specifically approved by the prime minister," the source said.

K. was not involved in interrogations during the years covered in the report, Yediot said.

Shin Bet, whose very existence was once a state secret, is in charge of preventing "terrorism," suppressing Palestinian insurgency and rooting out spies.

## Environment expert freed on bail in Lebanon

**BEIRUT (AFP)** — An environmental expert arrested for allegedly giving false testimony on Lebanon's toxic waste scandal was released on bail Monday, legal officials said.

Pierre Malichef was arrested a week ago by the judge in charge of an investigation into the entry of 16,000 barrels and 20 containers of toxic waste into Lebanon from abroad in 1987-1988.

Mr. Malichef, who also serves as a state consultant, was accused of spreading false information, fabricating evidence and inciting others to deform the truth.

He encouraged witnesses to state that their illnesses were brought about by toxic substances despite medical reports to the contrary," the official news agency ANI reported.

Mr. Malichef has said in a television debate that toxic waste was scattered around the whole country.

A legal official said Mr. Malichef was released after retracting his initial statement.

Mr. Malichef, who is in his

60s and has heart problems, was taken to hospital last Wednesday.

His arrest provoked protests among politicians including Walid Junblatt, leader of the Druze community and minister in charge of people displaced during the 1970-1990 civil war, who accused Lebanese justice of turning Mr. Malichef into a "scapegoat" in the growing scandal of waste dumping.

According to the environmental group Greenpeace, 10,000 barrels of waste are still in Lebanon where some was burned in 1988 polluting water and soil, sold as fertilizer, and dumped at sea or in mountains northeast of Beirut.

A poisoning scare which broke out with the discovery of suspect barrels last August in the Kesruan mountains spread to north Lebanon on Sunday, the day after a report on toxic waste on state television.

Inhabitants of around 20 villages in Akkar near the Syrian border alerted the authorities after realising they had used barrels similar to those shown on television.

# Where Algerian elite shelter from winds of war

By Robert Fisk

**CLUB DES PINS** — The war doesn't exist at the Club des Pins. Not on the beach, where the spray and gritty sand lash into the middle-class families in their woollen scarves and fur-lined boots and French coats; not on the promenade where lines of new Peugeots and Mercedes and BMWs stand in the evening sun. Behind the security gates below the presidential palace, row after row of new homes — villas and hastily-purchased portable buildings — provide the government elite, the journalists and officials and writers of this country, with their only Shangri La, a tiny enclave of safety from the hurricane winds gusting across Algeria.

Outside those gates with their Kalashnikov-toting policemen, outside the 9ft high walls topped with steel and barbed wire that shield the men and women most hated by the Islamists of Algeria, cluster the afternoon day-trippers from Algiers, seeking solace in the shadow of the privileged and the well-protected. Shopkeepers, engineers, students, designers and low-paid government workers walk the beaches. There are no veils on the women; some of them have long floating hair and transparent blouses that show, in a sad 1970s flourish, more than a hint of a black bra. Ask almost any of them about the war and a look of dismay and cynicism creeps into their faces.

The official from the nationalised Sonatrach oil company condemns the disgraceful exaggerations of the foreign press, the manipulations of foreign powers, the international plot which has brought "problems" to Algeria. The Algiers technicians ask why journalists want to "create" trouble for Algeria. A civil engineer criticises the political parties

— including the banned Islamic Salvation Front — who met in Rome and concluded that violence could not solve Algeria's tragedy. "It's nothing to do with do-gooders in other countries," he says, the surf washing his feet. "This should all be settled internally — you don't wash your dirty linen in public."

An economics professor playing on the beach with his young daughter also blames the press but concludes that Algeria's young are the country's hope. But were not the young, one wondered, the very backbone of the Islamic vote in the elections whose cancellation started the gale force winds howling around the middle classes? "I don't trust politicians, none of them," the economist says stubbornly. "As for the fundamentalists, they are fascists."

Below the tea-house, a group of younger men are playing football, a guard at the University of Algiers — "I search handbags," he says with unconcealed cynicism — a law student, a salesman from a sports shop near the Algiers post office and a waiter who works, of all places, at the Grosvenor Hotel in London. All but one were practising Muslims but all condemned both the government and its fundamentalist opponents. Algeria, they all unconsciously insisted, was experiencing the "painful transition" from dictatorship to "democracy". They fetched bottled water and cake for us, there beside the beach, huge slabs of current and cream, traditional hospitality with no word of the terrors of Algiers. Until we asked, gently, if they had witnessed any violence. Then the boy who sells sports clothes said he was in his shop when the suicide bomber attacked the police commissariat behind the post office in January.

"I ran out of the shop and down the street. There were bodies everywhere, bits of



Young Algerian women pass by a burnt out car in Algiers late last year (file photo)

**"I ran out of the shop and down the street. There were bodies everywhere, bits of bodies, limbs, you know!"**

bodies, limbs, you know?"

And then he stopped speaking and there was silence, an embarrassment of sorts, as if the four young men were somehow responsible for this, for admitting to a foreigner that, yes, it is all true, the violence of Algiers. The same troubled silence had followed the admission of a friend whose neighbour had been killed in the same explosion and who, at her friend's funeral, had been told of a baby's arm found in the upper storey of an office opposite the police station. "They never found out which baby the arm belonged to," she said. "What can you do with

a baby's arm?"

The Club des Pins was built 15 miles from Algiers as a conference centre in the late 1960s, in the first flush of Boumedienne's spendthrift post-independence construction, a set of ugly rectangular atriums fit for a hundred fraternal delegations. Now the new American portable buildings are piled up around them, plastic wrapping still covering the walls in readiness for the next battalion of frightened families. Below one set of pre-fabricated houses sat two young men, one with hippie-style long hair, the 1970s again. The family of one of them owned

a printing plant. It was a day out, he said, in the safety of the Club des Pins, where there were lots of policemen. There were the usual criticisms of the old FLN dictatorship, the impossibility of talking to Islamists, the suggestion that things had been much exaggerated abroad, had he seen any violence, he asked?

There was another long pause. "Yes." Where? "On a road." What happened? His reluctance collapsed. "I was driving into town, down the motorway into Algiers. It was a normal day, a normal morning. And there was a body on the side of the road, just lying there in some blood. A young man, maybe 24. I don't know why it happened or who he was. I never found out."

And then there was a tough Kabyle of 39 with a pretty Russian wife, whose best friend, a girl called

Larissa, had been shot dead in Algiers in December. "If the Islamists take over, it will be the same as it was before," he said. "One dictatorship follows another, you know. Yes, we know violence. There was my wife's friend; and the father and son of my neighbours had their throats cut at a faux barrage (a fake police check point) near Tizi Ouzou."

"My nephew was an Islamist but he agreed to perform his military services so another Islamist, one of his own friends, executed him. He was shot. They do their victims a favour when they shoot them rather than cut their throats. Yes, we have considered going to Russia to live."

His wife said she never left her home now for fear of being murdered. She came out just occasionally, to the safety of the Club des Pins. — The Independent.

## Meeting falls short of expectations

(Continued from page 1)

of 100 families in line with the family reunification programme as a confidence-building measure.

According to these officials, Israeli reservations about the return of displaced persons centred around an agreement that the occupied territories were not economically prepared or had the physical infrastructure to absorb the newcomers.

"I believe the result was modest and there were attempts by the Israeli side to complicate the issue to prevent the activation of the article on the mechanism and modalities for the return of the displaced persons," said Mr. Kabarti.

He said the Arab side had insisted that the repatriation take place during the timeframe of the transitional period of the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles. Mr. Kabarti did not say whether Israel had agreed to this timeframe.

"We hope that the next meeting will achieve what is expected and hoped for," said Mr. Kabarti, who stressed that peace would be meaningless without the right to return of the Palestinians scattered around in the Arab World.

Given that the Arab parties and Israel remain far apart on the very basic question — the number of displaced persons — observers had not expected the meeting to announce immediate solutions to one of the most sensitive issues on the negotiating table.

The Arab countries estimate the number of displaced at around 850,000. Israel puts the number at around 200,000 and the United Nations estimates that up to 700,000 persons fall into this category.

The formation of the committees to tackle the technical aspects related to the issue of displaced persons, including the number, criteria to be used to define eligibility for repatriation, modalities for their repatriation was seen by some as a necessity to begin finding a solution to the problem.

The delegates, who were hosted by His Majesty King Hussein for a working lunch, opened the meeting at the Hashemiyeh Palace with speeches stating their positions as to the requirements for a solution to the thorny issue.

From the onset, differences between the Arab parties and Israel over the approach to the solution were apparent.

While Israel tried to sidestep international law pertaining

to the problem by describing the refugees as a "humanitarian problem," the Arab parties stressed that the return of the Palestinians was a legal issue enshrined by United Nations resolutions and international conventions.

"No normal human being could ignore the suffering of the displaced regardless of the reasons... it is a humanitarian problem," Mr. Peres told the three Arab ministers and their delegations in opening remarks.

Mr. Peres did not reject the right of return of the displaced Palestinians outright but obviously he was not forthcoming on the principle in the closed session that followed.

In response to a question about the Israeli position on the principle of the right of return, Mr. Kabarti told reporters after the meeting: "It is a right we will pursue," indicating that Israel was not yet committed.

Egypt's Musa stressed in his opening remarks that the meeting was not being held to discuss the principle of the right to return since it was already an established fact.

"We are not here to discuss the right of return for the displaced persons or even to agree on this principle. It is an established, existing right supported by international law and United Nations resolutions and Israel's agreement with the Arab countries," said Mr. Musa, referring to the 1979 Camp David accords with Egypt, the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles and the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty.

The Arab parties also urged a speedy solution to the problem while Israel emphasised on its version of a realistic approach and warned against creating new problems by solving the plight of the displaced.

"In practical terms, we must take care not to solve one problem by complicating existing problems or creating new ones," Mr. Peres asserted.

The Israeli approach to the meeting as an "informal consultation" clearly contrasted with the Arab quest to ensure that the meeting produced tangible progress.

The Arabs viewed the Amman meeting, the first under a 1993 Israeli-PLO peace accord, as a formal attempt at tackling the problem.

"We need to adopt a strategy of rehabilitation to bring about a solution that is mutually agreed upon, a solution just in character and realistic in implementation, and an agreed agenda on the scope of the problem," Mr. Peres, citing the need for security and

economic resources to absorb the refugees. He called on the international community to help meet the infrastructure need of returning Palestinians.

"We also have to deal with the regional dimension of dealing with the problem and agree on the measures needed to prevent disruption and disorder," said Mr. Peres.

Dr. Shaath stressed the need for a quick solution to the problem to help a deadlock peace process.

"We see the speeding up in implementation as an important step in supporting the peace process that is suffering from dangerous paralysis," said Dr. Shaath, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

That was a clear reference to the PLO's hopes that any immediate move towards repatriation of the displaced would shore up the sagging support for the autonomy deal.

"We look forward to finding a solution to speed the implementation of the Oslo agreement... our success here would be a boost for attaining a real peace," said the PNA minister. "The return of the displaced is a right beginning to correct an historical mistake."

In his opening comments, Mr. Kabarti stressed that Jordan, which has shouldered a great financial burden due to the forced exodus of Palestinians, attached a great deal of importance to finding a solution to the plight of displaced persons, refugees and expellees.

"It is our belief that resolving such issues is an integral part and defining point in the peace process," said Mr. Kabarti. "Indeed, what gives us added motivation for finding a solution to this sensitive human tragedy is the fact that Jordan hosts the largest number of Palestinians in the diaspora, the overwhelming who carry Jordanian citizenship."

Calling for a just and honourable solution to end the "painful status quo," Mr. Kabarti said priority of the right to return should be given to displaced Palestinians who neither carry Jordanian nationality nor a temporary Jordanian passport.

Mr. Kabarti said that "economic and financial ramifications on the host country, and the socio-economic conditions of displaced persons in their dwellings and the effect of their neighbouring communities," should be considered when proposing a gradual solution.



(Anti-clockwise) Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation official Nabil Shaath meet at the Al Hashemiyeh Palace on Tuesday (Photo by Youssef Allian)

Following is the full text of the final statement of the meeting:

**DELEGATIONS** from Israel, the PLO, Jordan and Egypt met in Amman on March 7th, 1995, as the Continuing Committee for the purpose of deciding by agreement the modalities of admission of Palestinians displaced from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, together with necessary measures to prevent disruption and disorder and other matters of common concern.

The ministerial meeting based its frame of reference on the DoP and its Annexes, and Agreed Minutes, and on parallel clauses pertaining to displaced persons in the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty, and in the Camp David Accords.

THE four parties agreed on the structure of the Continuing Committee for the displaced persons, and other matters of common concern, which would meet at ministerial and technical levels. With regard to the technical level, it was agreed that each delegation is to be composed of three permanent members at senior level, joined by experts as needed. The venue of the meetings of the technical committee would be by rotation. The first meeting will be convened within a month from today.

Thereafter, meetings will be held normally every three weeks. Meetings at the ministerial level will be held by rotation every two/three months. The technical level will report to the ministerial level.

RELEVANT confidence-building measures shall be discussed in the Continuing Committee.

THE Ministerial Committee reaffirms its commitment to the speedy solution of this question to enhance the peace process.

## Rabin pledges to continue talks

(Continued from page 1)

to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who represented Israel at the refugee negotiations in Amman.

Judith Tayar, a spokeswoman for the settlers council, said the protest was meant to dramatise fears of refugees streaming back and claiming property now owned by Jews.

"We wish the Israeli public to be aware of the dangers of having one million people come in," she said. "Although this is a dramatization, we are taking it very seriously that a possibility like this could actually happen."

## 'Christopher has no new ideas'

(Continued from page 1)

not indefinitely, as Washington wants — because the Jewish state has not signed it.

Israeli officials have expressed dismay at what they see as an ill-timed Egyptian move. But U.S. officials said the two countries were working to overcome their differences, and one said: "We do not see Egypt as having adopted a hostile posture,"

Guard wounds Palestinian

An Israeli school security guard shot and wounded a Palestinian in the port city of Ashdod on Tuesday, police said.

A police spokeswoman said the guard opened fire on three Palestinians he claimed were trying to steal his handgun, wounding one of them. "The victim's life is not in danger," she said, adding that the man was hit by two bullets.

The guard and the two other Palestinians were detained for questioning, she said.

## King stresses need for serious work

(Continued from page 1)

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, deputy

premiers Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Khaled Karaki, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti, Jordan's ambassador-designate to Israel Marwan Muasher and several other officials involved in the meetings.

## Al Bilad plans to sue government

(Continued from page 12)

and enjoy a strong popularity. According to Mr. Amin, the two papers will resume publication after they have

presented all the necessary papers and documents which will then be presented to the minister for approval. "The minister is the one who has the authority to grant a licence," Mr. Amin said.



# CBJ indirectly steers interest rates upwards

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), in a continuing bid to check any significant conversion of Jordanian dinars into foreign currency, is keeping up with the rise of interest rates on the U.S. dollar by indirectly hiking local interest rates, bankers said Tuesday.

The stability of a higher yield on dollar deposits over deposits in American dollar could also be translated into an appreciation of the Jordanian currency through a carefully-charted measure that would not adversely affect the market, some bankers say.

This week's CBJ announcement that it was auctioning certificates of deposits (CDs) worth JD 20 million was seen by the bankers as a key CBJ strategy to ensure that interest rates on deposits in dinars remain higher than the U.S. dollar.

They noted that the CBJ, since early February when the interest rates of dollars started going up in Jordan, had sought to hike the yields in dinar deposits offered by commercial banks by releasing its own instruments that carry higher interest.

"The prime objective of the central bank is to make the dinar attractive against the dollar and thus check deposits in dinars to be converted into the American currency through maintaining the gap between interest rates on dinars and dollars," said a leading banking official.

The international interest rates on dollar deposits went up from around four per cent in mid-1994 to 6.5 per cent in March as the American government implemented a series of policies aimed at controlled economic growth.

During the same period, interest rates on dinar deposits in Jordan went up from around six per cent to 8.5 per cent as the CBJ sought to

retain the relative attraction of the Jordanian currency to investors.

However, some bankers also believe that it is time for an appreciation of the dinar against the dollar and thus also address a problem of liquidity in the market caused by the diversion of funds into certificates of deposits.

The bankers cite official figures that show that Jordanian commercial banks hold about JD 5.23 billion in deposits, including JD 1.91 billion held in foreign currency.

"The statistics show that credits offered by commercial banks stand at around JD 3.32 billion against dinar deposits worth JD 3.24 billion" — excluding the JD 1.91 billion deposits in foreign currency — said a banking executive who deals with investments.

"Considering that 14 per cent of all commercial bank deposits have to be deposited with the central bank, the statistics clearly show that some banks have borrowed from others to offer credit to their customers," noted the executive, who preferred not to be identified.

"As such there is clearly a problem of liquidity," said the executive. "The best way to address the problem is to allow for an appreciation of the dinar in a very calculated way that takes into consideration all aspects of market impact."

According to this line of thinking, an appreciated dinar would automatically lure dollar deposits into dinar deposits and result in higher liquidity with the commercial banks.

The other side of the equation is an inevitable decrease in exports, which some bankers accuse others of ignoring.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Nabulsi said late last year that the dinar could easily stand up against an appreciation but he did not want to allow for an appreciation be-

cause such a move would adversely affect the Kingdom's quest for export-led monetary growth.

In any case, he said, the existing exchange rate value of the dinar was clearly dictated by supply and demand and that the CBJ did not find it necessary to intervene in the market.

Reporting the latest certificates of deposits auction, Reuters said Monday that interest yields on certificates of deposits sold last week had remained unchanged from the previous week's eight to 8.5 per cent on the three-month paper.

Yields on six month certificates were at a high of 8.50 per cent, also unchanged from a week earlier.

Officials said most bids accepted were in the lower end of the yield range.

Banks, needing cash to meet customer needs for the Muslim Eid Al Fitr feast that ended on Sunday, had less liquidity to invest in last week's CDs.

Customers withdrew an estimated JD 25 million before the four-day religious holiday that began last Thursday, bankers said.

Liquidity also was generally tighter with significant bank funds tied in longer term CDs, bankers said.

Closing day for CD bids is on Wednesday, banks are told the results on Thursday and CDs are officially issued on Saturday, minimum purchases are JD 100,000.

Overnight interbank dinar rates — with more CDs absorbing liquidity — rose as high as 9.50 per cent on Monday from an average 9.00 per cent during last week, bankers say.

Repurchase agreement remained unchanged at 9.00 per cent, with some banks selling CDs to get liquidity to relent at 9.50 per cent rates.

The discount rate remained fixed at 8.5 per cent, outstanding dinar CDs are 259 million dinars (\$377 million).

# IMF says no need for tighter market controls

COPENHAGEN (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) head Michel Camdessus said Tuesday that despite market turmoil caused by Mexico's economic crisis there was no need to set up new controls.

"There is the need to avoid yielding to the temptation, which can be brought on by panic, to return to controls and protectionist measures that would only precipitate deeper recessionary effects," the IMF managing director told delegates to the United Nations social summit in the Danish capital.

"Rather than fighting in-

stability of capital movements in that way, we must strive to address their underlying causes, including weak macroeconomic and financial policies and inadequate internal controls of financial institutions," he said.

Mr. Camdessus, and World Bank Vice-President Arneane Choksi both dismissed as unworkable a plan by a U.N. commission on funding to levy a worldwide tax on capital market transactions.

The commission, set up six months ago to seek new ways of funding the debt-ridden world body, issued its first

report on Monday, calling for a 0.001 per cent tax on currency deals which it said would raise \$50 million daily.

"I think it's not going to fly, I think it is a non-starter. It's a tax on speculative capital flows. Who will define what is speculative capital and what is not speculative capital?" Mr. Choksi said at a news conference.

"Governments must face the (funding) problem in a more straightforward way," Mr. Camdessus told another news conference.

Mr. Choksi said that even if the proposed tax looked

like a very small amount it actually represented 20 to 30 per cent of the margins on international currency transactions.

"This could have a very negative impact on private capital flows to developing countries," he said.

Commission members said full details of the tax proposal had yet to be worked out. Their report says that the U.N. needs about \$400 million per month to meet continuing costs and at the end of August 1994 had debts exceeding \$1.7 billion. Membership arrears stood at \$3.2

billion, it added.

"At present there is virtually no cash in the peacekeeping reserve fund and the working capital fund...is virtually depleted," it quoted U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali as saying.

Dr. Ghali opened the week-long summit Monday. In addition to the financial markets levy, the report also proposes taxing air transport, deep ocean fishing and international arms sales and imposing fines on dumpers of toxic waste in international waters.

## Info age is new dark age, expert tells business chiefs

LONDON (R) — The dawn of information age will bring a world where corporations take over from nation states and a tiny elite defends itself from dispossessed masses, a business conference was told Tuesday.

"Some people foresee a new middle ages with a natural state of inequality, with urban areas protected as castles, but electronically," said Professor Ian Angell of the London School of Economics, giving his gloomy view of the decades ahead.

Propelling the world to such a dark future was the growing value of information over all other commodities and the weakening ties between big business and any fixed place.

Information technology, with "tele-working" and video conferencing, would make the office largely redundant except for largely social events for employees to bond as a community and cement their loyalties to the company.

Property prices would crash and corporations move where profit was highest and regulation weakest, Professor Angell, an expert on social effects of information systems, told business leaders.

Professor Angell, opening the one-day seminar on fraud and crime, said nation states would break up as regions dumped poorer areas in the fight to get global business, which would seek the securest haven for its information and prized "knowledge workers."

Global enterprises would see themselves as owners of their staff and demand their undivided allegiance.

State and corporate police would cooperate and merge, as is already seen in parts of the United States, he said.

# Turkish analysts welcome EU deal

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Tuesday welcomed an agreement with EU states on a customs union, but analysts and commentators said the country has much to do to take the deal work in its favour.

"For customs union, everything is only beginning. There are such important decisions and big steps to be taken that a delay can cause Turkey great harm," said prominent European Union (EU) analyst Mehmet Ali Birand in the Sabah daily.

Banner headlines welcomed the deal and most of Turkey's private television stations celebrated the accord sealed by the 15-member EU and Turkey in Brussels Monday.

But the leader of Turkey's main opposition Motherland Party, the Islamists and a

fringe Marxist group opposed the deal which is expected to take effect on Jan. 1, 1996.

"Turkey plunges into a pool but doesn't know if there is water in it," Motherland leader Mesut Yilmaz said Monday.

Mr. Birand and other analysts said failure by Turkey to meet a checklist of obligations to the European Union would undermine potentially large gains from the long-awaited deal.

He called for rapid enactment of laws on intellectual and industrial property rights and a major revision of the constitution to weed out anti-democratic clauses enshrined in the 1982 charter by a military junta then in power.

Sabah columnist Cengiz Candar said opponents of the deal feared European goods would flood the 60-million

Turkish market but failed to see it also gave Turks access to a huge EU market.

"The customs union will inescapably force renewal of Turkish legislation. Under customs union, Yasar Kemal cannot be tried on pain of jail for writing for Der Spiegel," he said.

Mr. Kemal, Turkey's most prominent novelist, is facing a jail term of five years if found guilty of advocating Kurdish separatism for an article in the German weekly.

The European Parliament, expected to endorse the customs union in October, has said it will turn it down unless Turkey removes curbs on freedom of expression and takes steps to improve its poor human rights record.

Turkey has said it is determined to correct abuses and amend its military-era constitution, but reforms have so far remained bogged down in parliament.

Mr. Yilmaz, on a campaign

to topple Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, said her coalition government put Turkey at risk for the sake of its own prestige by signing the accord.

Late president Turgut Ozal, the founder of Motherland and Mr. Yilmaz's one-time mentor, was an ardent believer in the EU and made Turkey's bid for full membership in 1987.

The Muslim-based Welfare Party, which would link Turkey to the Islam World and cut ties to the West, said it "will annul the customs union when we come to power."

"This is colonial rule and capitulation," Secretary-General Oguzhan Asilturk said. "Turkey will be made the site of dirty industry and a pool of cheap labour for Europe."

Chairman of the Marxist Labour Party (I.P.), Dogu Perincek, said the trade deal paved the way for Turkey's colonisation.

# Spanish government slammed over devaluation of peseta

MADRID (R) — Spain's beleaguered socialist government, already hard hit by persistent political scandals, Tuesday came under more heavy opposition fire over a devaluation of the peseta.

Opposition parties of the left and right, who in recent months have repeatedly demanded an early general election, suddenly found themselves with yet another stick with which to beat the government.

But the Catalan Nationalists, whose votes in parliament give Prime Minister

Felipe Gonzalez his majority, pledged to continue backing the government.

Conservative Popular Party economic spokesman Rodrigo Rato zeroed in on the cost of the seven per cent devaluation to the pocket of the man in the street.

"Prices in the shops and interest rates will go up. People will pay more for their credit, for mortgages, if they want to buy a house. That is the price of keeping Felipe Gonzalez in government," Mr. Rato said.

The devaluation was

agreed at a marathon meeting of the European Union monetary committee after days of heavy pressure on the peseta caused by weakness of the dollar.

Mr. Gonzalez himself told reporters in Barcelona the devaluation would not hurt Spain's economic recovery from recession.

It would stimulate exports and tourism and, although imports generally would be dearer, key imports of petroleum products would not be affected, as they were paid for in dollars.

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# Pakistan's leather garments exports drop; 60,000 lose jobs

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan's leather garment exports have sharply declined due to shortage of finished leather, throwing 60,000 people out of jobs, exporters said.

Exports of value-added leather items declined from \$256 million during the second half of 1993 to \$205 million in the same period in 1994, said an official of Pakistan Leather Manufacturers and Exporters Forum.

S. M. Farrukh said shortage of finished leather in Pakistan had raised prices and made domestic industry less competitive on the world market.

Tanners export leather to competing countries, making it difficult for the manufacturers here to quote competitive prices, he said.

Mr. Farrukh demanded that the government impose a 15 per cent export duty on all types of finished leather to ensure availability of the raw

material for domestic users at reasonable prices.

He said more than 80 per cent of Pakistan's 378 leather garment units were forced to close because of the shortage of finished leather. There are, in addition, 416 footwear manufacturers, 247 medium and small size gloves producing units and 218 sports goods makers.

However, the Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) claimed that about one million square feet of finished leather was available on the domestic market.

PTA Chairman Gulzar Firoz said the prices of finished leather had risen, not only in Pakistan but all over the world, due to increased cost incurred in improving quality.

Leather products including, garments, footwear, gloves and sports goods, made up about 70 per cent of Pakistan's total leather exports.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 8, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is a good morning to talk over with regular associates how best to improve mutual affairs. Big disagreements are tactfully straightened out before going to bed.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Don't be hasty in a new venture. Consider a change in procedure with a big wig but make sure you have their complete cooperation before going ahead.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Plan some recreational activity with good friends that will be enjoyed by all this morning. Avoid taking any risks where money is concerned.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) An ideal day to improve the appearance and comfort of your home. Avoid one who has a chip on the shoulder attitude and wants you to listen to all their complaints.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at communications this morning that are important to your well being. An ideal day to study contracts, statements and other important documents.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Put your heads together this morning with close associates and study all monetary matters and know how best to improve them. Don't overwork physically or mentally.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Know what your personal wishes really are today, then go after them in a positive way. Do something thoughtful for pals and gain their good will in the afternoon.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Talking over matters with one you admire can bring a fine result this morning. You are able to solve a problem that has bothered you for a long time.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You have some personal wishes that are important so go after them in a positive way. This is a good day to see friends and associates. Have a pleasant time tonight.

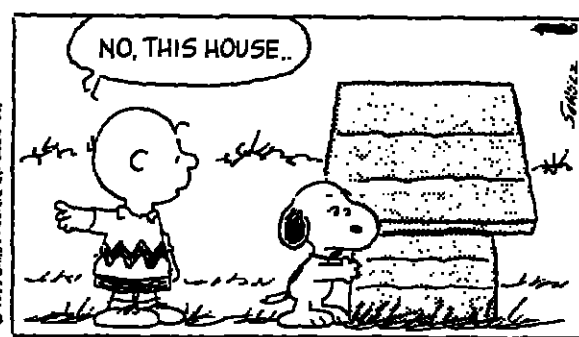
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Talk over an important plan with a higher up and come to the right conclusion this morning and you'll get the support you need. Avoid a time-wasting associate.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Make arrangements now for a mutual trip with another risk you feel is important. Make new friends today with those who can give you added knowledge and experience.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Use your intuitive faculties more and gain your aims more easily at this time. Be more willing to please a loved one today, especially one you are very fond of and who needs your support.

Birthstone of March: Aquamarine — Jasper

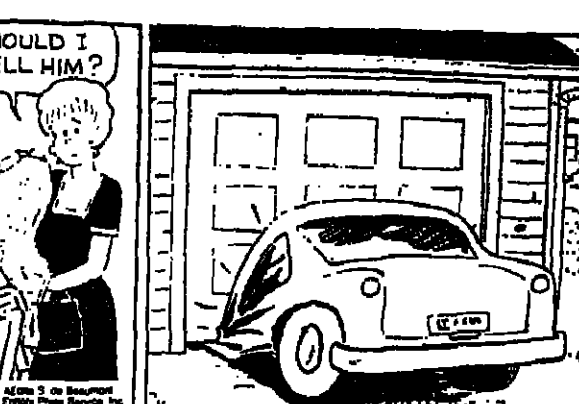
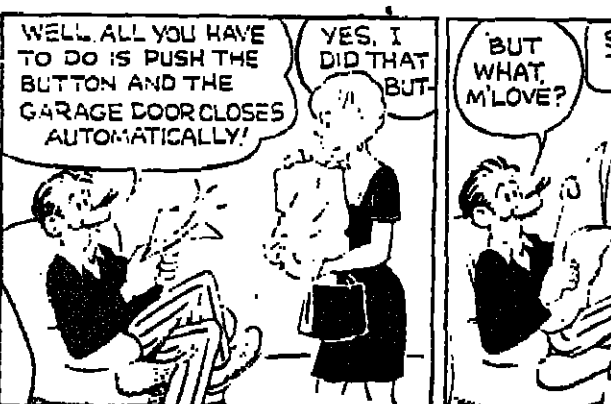
## Peanuts



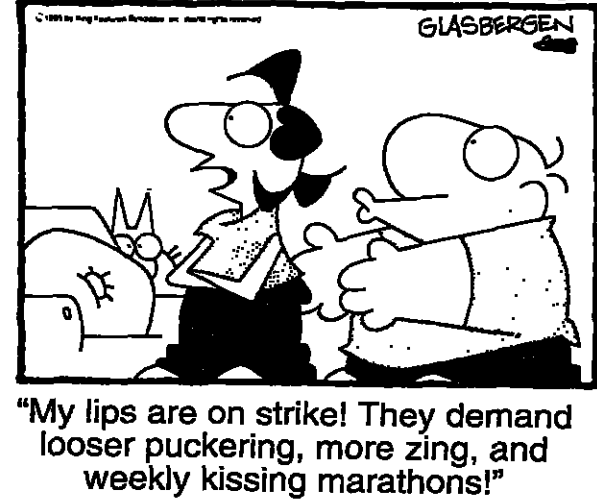
## Andy Capp



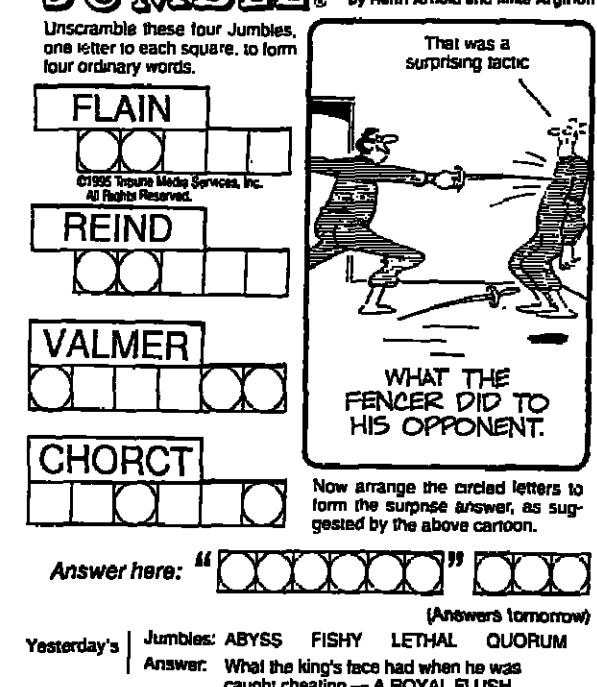
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF



## JUMBLE



## THE Daily Crossword









## Asian U-18 Basketball Championship

## Jordan lose to powerful titleholders, play Japan for semifinal berth today

By Omar Bashtawi  
in Manila  
and Aileen Bannayan  
in Amman

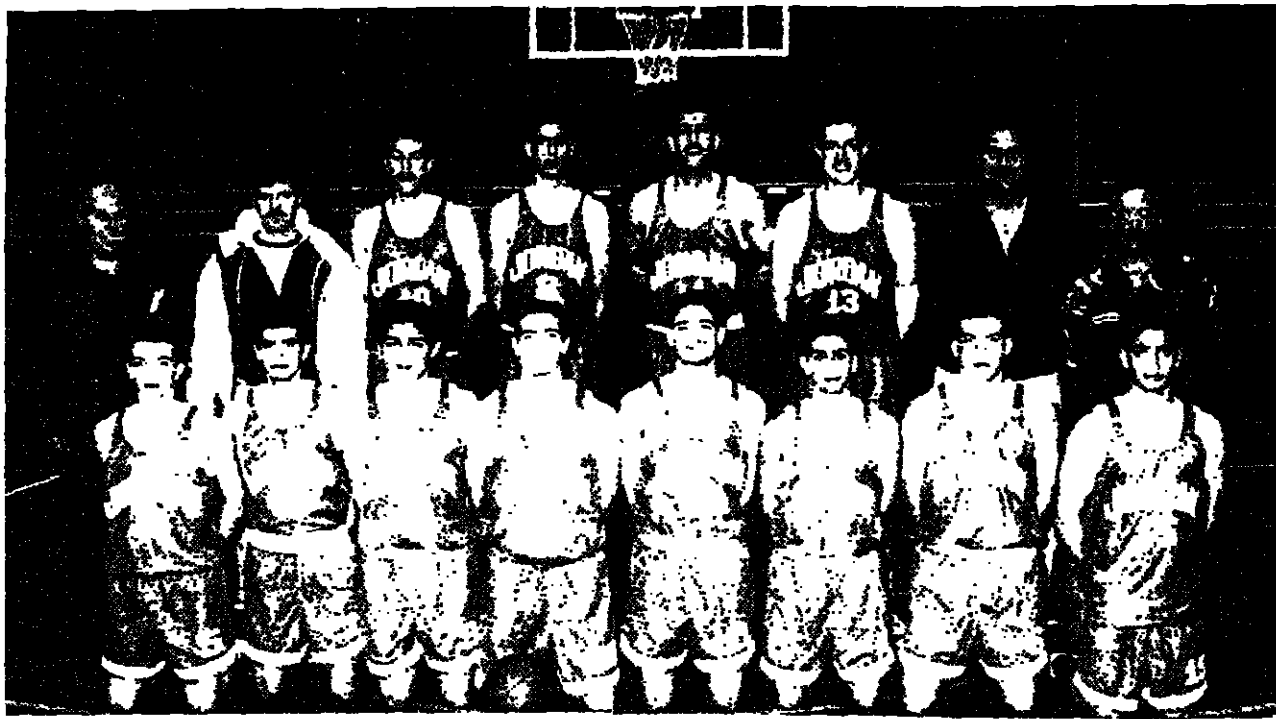
**TITLEHOLDERS** China scored an expected 88-49 victory over Jordan Tuesday in a quarterfinal match to the 13th Asian Basketball Confederation Under-18 Championship currently under way in Manila.

The defeat now means that Jordan will have to beat Japan when they meet today (Wednesday) in order to qualify for the semifinal round and play for the top four places. Otherwise Jordan will play for 5th-8th places.

The relatively inexperienced Jordanian team who were only regrouped two months ago and are playing their first international tournament, were no match for the Chinese who average 196 centimetres and are seeking their fifth title.

China took a 28-6 lead and managed to expand their lead by a series of turnovers before ending the first half 48-13.

The Jordanians played in a more coherent and relaxed manner in the second half and managed to reduce the gap with clever penetrations by Mahmoud Sha'ban and rebounding and inbound scoring by Zeid Alkhas and Ma'an Odeh. The latter again ended the match in a buzzer-beater just as he had secured Jordan's victory in their 72-71 win over the Philippines Monday.



The Jordanian team — A tough task ahead to get to the semifinals

The second half score was 40-36 for China who also beat Japan earlier 78-53.

Jordan's top scorers were: Zeid Alkhas 16, Ma'an Odeh 12, Ashraf Samara 7.

Jordan is the only Arab country taking part in the 15 nation competition. The Kingdom's team had qualified to the quarterfinals after scoring a crushing 71-24 win over Hong Kong and 88-35 over Singapore before losing to top-ranked South Korea 75-61.

In the quarterfinals, Jordan is grouped with China, the Philippines and Japan, while the other quarterfinalist group includes South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Taiwan. The top two teams in each group will qualify for the semifinals. The competition concludes on March 11.

In addition to the hectic daily match schedule, Jordanian delegation officials have been attending Asian confederation meetings.

Jordan will apply to host either the Asian Under-22 Championship in 1996 or

the Asian Clubs' Championship in the same year. India withdrew its bid in favour of Jordan in the U-22 race leaving only China in contention.

Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Chairman Awad Haddad met with the head of the Indian delegation and agreed to set up a series of matches between the two teams. Haddad also received an invitation from the Malaysian delegation inviting the Jordanian team to take part in a charity tournament next month.

Meanwhile, JBF Deputy Chairman Samir Janakat and Secretary Ghaleb Balawi attended the Asian Mini Basketball meetings during which the Asian teams were divided into 4 groups. Jordan was grouped in the West Asia Zone which includes the Arab Gulf countries, Iran and Kazakhstan.

Jordan's head coaches Murad Barakat and Imad Al Saeed also attended the coaches meetings to choose the best Asian junior players.

## Rivalries key to future of tennis

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Tennis needs new rivalries to thwart prophecies of doom, with Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras hopeful of matching such legends as Bjorn Borg versus Jimmy Connors or Ivan Lendl against John McEnroe.

Agassi's pursuit of world number one Sampras and the women's fight for first between Germany's Steffi Graf and Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario have brought spark to the sport in recent months.

Ten months ago, the U.S. magazine Sports Illustrated asked the cover question "Is Tennis Dying?" The sport's stars reply no, but Agassi uses U.S. basketball players Magic Johnson and Larry Bird to illustrate his point.

"Rivalries make sports thrive," Agassi said. "Magic and Bird turned the NBA around. Our sport needs a rivalry and Pete and I can have it."

Sampras has won seven of 13 career matchups with Agassi entering this week's ATP event in Indian Wells, California. Sampras must defend two titles this month to hold off Agassi's challenge to his 18-month reign.

"I've handled being number one pretty well. I have stayed there a while," Sampras said. "It's one thing to be there and another to stay there."

Differences make the U.S. players logical rivals. Agassi dates actress-model Brooke Shields and thrives on the spotlight and glamour. Sampras found himself nervous when appearing on a popular U.S. talk show.

"It was not really enjoyable," Sampras said. "I would rather play in front of 18,000 spectators than do a talk show."

Some consider the problem solely a U.S. matter, but the ATP is making moves worldwide. Michael Chang leads a programme to boost Asian tennis growth. Players are



Andre Agassi



Pete Sampras

funding a \$1.5 million youth tennis programme. A plan is underway to reduce a glut of European tennis telecasts after this year.

Yet there is concern even in Sweden, which had no player in the top 10 this month for the first time since 1982 when Stefan Edberg fell out. Rising Swedish star Thomas Enqvist considers Sweden's 1994 Davis Cup triumph vital.

"Tennis is on the way down in Sweden," he said. "They expect we should have five of the top 10 like before. But it's not possible. That's why the Davis Cup

was so important. It's important to get everyone excited about tennis again."

Enqvist fights comparisons to past Swedish stars.

"No one is going to be new Edberg or new Borg," he said. "You just have to yourself and play as well you can."

Europe remains a tennis stronghold. Attendance was four per cent higher last year at European tournament reached a record four million worldwide. This year's ATP prize money will reach a record \$64 million.

Women's tennis has been spared. The WTA likes Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova had also been hit by the losses of Monica Seles to a stabbing and Jennifer Capriati to stresses of turning pro too young.

"It's important to create rivalries. That's what's lacking in tennis today," Enqvist said. "Martina and I had a 15-year rivalry. It would be good to have Graf and Sanchez play each other more often. We're trying to structure next season so they play more often."

Another concern is the speed of the game. ATP officials are looking at ways to slow the sport indoors and on grass. Sampras points to the red clay of Roland Garros in Paris when critics say play is too fast.

"You only have to watch the French Open. They have the slowest surface in the world," Sampras said. "It's different when you play there."

The French title is also the lone Grand Slam title neither he nor Agassi have ever claimed.

"Winning the French is of major importance," said Sampras, who will spend two months in Europe before the event. "The reason I am preparing much earlier is because it's so important."

## British racer missing for 4th day

NEW YORK (AP) — British solo racer Harry Mitchell, remained lost at sea for a fourth day Monday, as a merchant ship fought heavy seas to comb the area where his distress beacon had last been sent.

Mitchell's emergency beacon, set off late Thursday night, indicated he was about 1,450 miles (2,320 kilometres) west of South America's Cape Horn in the frigid waters of the Southern Ocean.

That beacon emitted its final transmission about midday Sunday.

Mitchell, at 70 the oldest competitor in the BOC round-the-world race, was one of six sailors still completing the third leg, from Sydney, Australia, to Punta Del Este, Uruguay. Seven other racers have already finished.

The skipper from Portsmouth, England, was also sailing the smallest boat in the race, the class II (12-metre) yacht "Henry Hornblower."

The crew of the Francisca Schulte searched for Mitchell for the second day Monday, amid force 7 winds of 28-to-33 knots and nine-foot seas. Ship master S. Mordovin said he was conducting an "expanding square search" over a 23-square-mile area.

"My crew and I are trying to do our best to locate this brave man," he reported Monday to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Valparaiso, Chile, the organisation responsible for search and rescue missions in the area.

"To attract attention, we sound fog signals and fire rocket parachute flares and hand flares," he added.

The Francisca Schulte had been 480 miles (768 kilometres) to the northwest before it was diverted.

"The ship will continue searching through the night and into tomorrow," race spokesman Dan McConnell said Monday, speaking from Punta Del Este.

## Fernandez beats Zvereva in Evert Cup final

INDIAN WELLS (Agencies) — Eighth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez saw her hard work pay off when she beat fourth seed Natasia Zvereva of Belarus 6-4 6-3 in the final of the \$430,000 Evert Cup Monday.

The final was originally scheduled for Sunday but persistent light rain forced it to be postponed.

Fernandez, ranked 19th in the world, beat the ninth-ranked Zvereva for the fifth time in as many career meetings and recaptured the title she won here in 1993.

She called her win in the 84-minute match the payoff for all the time she has put in on the practice court recently. "I have been working very hard and it paid off today because I was able to dictate play," Fernandez said. "My serve got me a few free points at important times and I took advantage of some of her errors. Mentally, I think I was perfect and I'm certainly pleased with the outcome."

Zvereva, who upset top seed and world number one Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain in the semifinals, had patches of brilliant play against Fernandez but could not sustain them.

Zvereva opened a 3-1 lead in the first set with some tricky net play, but she outsmarted herself on a break point, hitting an easy drop volley wide to lose her serve in the sixth game, which allowed Fernandez to pull even at 3-3.

Zvereva said she employed a strategy — attacking all shot balls — that worked in her upset of Sanchez Vicario on Saturday, but admitted she was slightly overwhelmed by the occasion.

"She played very well the entire match," Zvereva said. "My tactics were the same (as against Sanchez Vicario) but I made many mistakes at the net because I was so excited to be in the final. But I don't want to take credit from her."

Fernandez collected \$79,000, while Zvereva earned \$39,500.

## Capriati out for Key Biscayne

Jennifer Capriati, who delayed her comeback bid by dropping out of the Australian Open, will not compete at the WTA Key Biscayne Championships, which begin next week.

"She is definitely not playing," WTA spokesman Jim Fushie said.

Capriati, who missed most of the past year with personal problems, has eight more days to withdraw from the event, which granted her a wild card entry.

Fushie said the 18-year-old player has not returned to training since an illness sidelined her from the Australian Open. Fushie said the flu has lingered and kept her from her first tour appearance since last November.

## Graf preparing to play at Delray Beach

A fit Steffi Graf is eager to restart her stalled 1995 season. However, recapturing the top spot is not a priority. Graf, the No. 2 player in the world since Arantxa Sanchez Vicario unseated her from a 20-month perch as No. 1, is the top seed at this week's \$430,000 Delray Beach winter championships.

It is only her second tournament of the year after a series of injuries.

"Being No. 1 doesn't matter," Graf said Monday, after getting a first-round bye. "I want to play more than anything else. I didn't feel like this was the way I wanted to end my career."

Graf will play Spain's Maria Sanchez Lorenzo, a 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 winner over Patricia Hy Boulais on Monday.

France's Nathalie Tauziat, the ninth and highest seed to play Monday, had trouble with the wind before defeating Rita Grande of Italy 7-6 (6-2), 6-2.

No. 13 seed Angelica Gavaldon of Mexico posted a 6-4, 6-2 win over Tatiana Ignatieva, while Aussie Nicole Bradtke upset 15th-seeded Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan 7-6 (4-5), 6-2.

Graf has been bothered by an aching back since losing the U.S. Open final to Sanchez Vicario in September. Six months of intense rehabilitation, followed by re-occurring injuries to a calf muscle, has altered Graf's perspective.

"My priority now is to stay injury-free," Graf said. "If you had seen what I went through the past three or four months, you would see what drive I have."

After a 12-week layoff, Graf surprised herself by winning her 86th WTA title at last month's Open Gaz de France. In the final, Graf beat Mary Pierce, the Australian Open champion, 6-2, 6-2.

## TENNIS ROUNDUP

"I was stunned I played that well," said Graf, who has won the Delray tournament, formerly called the Virginia Slims of Florida, three consecutive times and five overall. Graf's stiffest competition this week should come from second-seeded Conchita Martinez, third-seeded Anke Huber and sixth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez. Even if Graf wins, she wouldn't overtake Sanchez Vicario, who along with Pierce and Gabriela Sabatini, took this tournament off to prepare for next week's Lipton championships at Key Biscayne.

"I have to prove something first," Graf said. "Arantxa has been very consistent. I have to earn it. That will come in time. I won't force it."

## Gaudenzi beats Fromberg

Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy overcame a slow start and a mild case of jet lag to beat Richard Fromberg of Australia in the first round of the \$1,800,000 Newsweek Champions Cup on Monday.

Gaudenzi, at number 13 the only seeded player in action on Monday, prevailed 2-6 6-2 7-6 (7-2) in one hour, 54 minutes.

Top seed Pete Sampras and second-seeded Andre Agassi received first-round byes at the 56-player tournament, as did the rest of the top eight seeded players.

Agassi could overtake Sampras at number one in the ATP tour rankings if he wins the tournament and Sampras loses before the quarter-finals, according to tour officials. American David Wheaton overpowered Cedric Pioline of France 6-3 6-1 with his serve-and-volley game in another first-round match at the hard court tournament.

Gaudenzi, ranked 19th in the world, played a lacklustre first set before coming alive against the baseliner Fromberg.

"I really played bad in the first set," Gaudenzi said. "I was not so aggressive and my attitude was a little negative. Maybe it was a little jet lag. But in the third set I felt good and also in the tiebreak I could win."

## Krajicek fit for Davis Cup

Richard Krajicek, who injured his knee on the weekend, will play for the Netherlands in their Davis Cup World Group quarter-final against Germany at the end of the month, the Dutch news agency ANP said Tuesday.

Krajicek, 23, ranked 10th in the world, hurt his right knee as he lunged for a shot on match point in winning the world indoor tournament in Rotterdam Sunday.

The tall Dutchman had the knee examined in hospital on Monday and has been passed fit for the March 31-April 2 tie.

## Germans set to introduce random tests

BONN (R) — Germany plans to become the first country to introduce an extensive programme of random blood tests during training in a bid to intensify its campaign to catch athletes who cheat with drugs.

German Sports Federation (DSB) vice-president Ulrich Feldhoff told Reuters on Tuesday that the federation planned around 20,000 annual tests on athletes from all major sports. The programme is expected to be introduced in the last quarter of

the year.

"Following (scientific) reports, the DSB's anti-doping commission has put forward the proposal to the federation's board that the tests be introduced this autumn," Feldhoff said. "I expected the board to back the proposal."

"The credibility of top-class sport is on the line at the moment ... the situation is critical," he added.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)

and many countries test the urine of athletes during training and competition. But scientists believe blood tests are more efficient in detecting the use of drugs such as steroids over a longer period.

Blood tests have been part of the elite "Golden Four" athletics meetings in Oslo, Brussels, Zurich and Bern in recent seasons. But until now, no country has introduced an extensive random testing programme during training.



British jockey Simon McNeill eases from his mount during the Doncaster races in York Monday (AFP photo)

	Cinema Tel.: 634144	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Tel.: 625155
	<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	<b>PLAZA</b>	<b>CONCORD</b>	<b>AMMOUN THEATRE</b>	<b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b>	<b>AHLAN THEATRE</b>
	Eddie Murphy in <b>Beverly Hills Cop 3</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Honey, I Blew Up The Kid Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00 Jean-Claude Van Damm <b>TimeCop</b> Shows: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian star: Adel Imam — <b>Bakhit &amp; Andadileh</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> Jean-Claude Van Damm <b>STREET FIGHTER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00	Mousa Hijazin "Sumaah" in the political comedy <b>"Hi Citizen"</b> Author and Director: Mohammad Al Shawaqfeh Daily starting 8:30 p.m. Monday is the weekly holiday	Presents <b>Abu Awwad</b> in the social comedy <b>Punctured Bag</b> The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	Presents: The political satire: <b>AL SALAM YA SALAM</b> at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays



## Ince charged with assault at Palace

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United and England midfielder, Paul Ince has been charged with common assault on a spectator, Scotland Yard confirmed here on Tuesday.

Ince will join teammate Eric Cantona on March 23 when they will appear before Croydon magistrates following an incident in United's match at Crystal Palace on January 25.

Cantona was charged on February 21 with common assault on another spectator, Matthew Simmons.

But both United and the Football Association (FA) said they will not be taking immediate action against Ince.

FA spokesperson Clare Timlinson said: "If we had received a complaint about his behaviour at the time, we might have considered charging Paul Ince, but we did not."

"We would only consider charging him now if he was found guilty of an offence." Chelsea's Dennis Wise was pulled out of the England squad for last month's friendly in Dublin after being convicted of assaulting a taxi-driver.

But Tomlinson said the situation with Ince was entirely different at the time and that he was still available for England's friendly with Yugoslavia at Wembley on March 29.

She added: "Dennis Wise



File picture dated Nov. 22 1994, of Manchester United's players Paul Ince (left) and Eric Cantona (right) during a match with Crystal Palace (AFP photo). Ince has been charged with common assault.

was found guilty of common assault by the courts. If Paul was found guilty, we would have to look at what further measures we might need to take.

"But at this stage he is not guilty of anything. He is free to play for Manchester United and we would never tell Terry Venables who he could select for the England squad."

The charges follow an incident which began when Cantona was sent off during a

game between Manchester United and Crystal Palace.

On his way to the dressing room, Cantona allegedly attacked Simmons with a lung-fu style kick.

Further scuffles, in which Ince was allegedly involved, followed.

As a result of the incident, Manchester United banned 28-year-old Cantona for the rest of the season and fined him 20,000.

At the end of February, an

FA disciplinary commission suspended Cantona from all football up to and including September 1995 and fined him £10,000.

Ince returns to the scene of the incident on Tuesday night for Manchester United's Premiership match against Wimbledon, who share the Selhurst Park ground with Crystal Palace.

United will only consider punishing Ince if he is found guilty.

## F.A. charge Graham with misconduct

LONDON (AFP) — Former Arsenal manager George Graham was charged with misconduct by the English Football Association (F.A.) here on Tuesday.

The charge follows a Premier League inquiry which revealed Graham had received an illegal payment of £425,000 in connection with signings of Pal Lydersen and John Jensen.

Graham, sacked by Arsenal last month following the inquiry into illegal payments involving transfers of foreign players to English clubs, has 21 days to respond.

The Premier League was powerless to act on its findings against Graham but passed on relevant documents and evidence to F.A. chief executive Graham Kelly.

The charge puts Graham's future career in jeopardy as the F.A. have unlimited jurisdiction in matters of football to impose whatever punishment they see fit.

A ban from management in England would almost certainly be endorsed by FIFA, football's world governing body, and imposed worldwide.

The F.A. statement read: "The Football Association has decided to charge Mr. George Graham, the former manager of Arsenal Football Club, with misconduct in relation to payments allegedly received by him in connection with transfers."

"The Football Association is still considering the evidence. It will be conducting its own investigation. We will be in touch with Arsenal shortly in connection with the facts surrounding these matters."

The Premier League are investigating all transfers involving overseas players in the wake of Graham developments.

On Monday former Liverpool boss Graeme Souness started legal proceedings against the publishers of Today newspaper over a story that questioned the financial details of the transfer of Danish player Torben Piechnik.

Souness was manager at Arsenal at the time of Piechnik's move from FC Copenhagen in September 1992, the deal being arranged by Norwegian agent Rune Hauge, who was involved in the Lydersen and Jensen deals.

## Arab Cup Winners' Championship

## Faisali leave for Cairo today, play Egypt's Ahli Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Faisali will meet Egyptian champions Al Ahli in the opening match of the 5th Arab Cup Winners' Championship which kicks off in Cairo Friday with eight teams taking part.

Al Faisali, the holders of the 1994 Jordan Cup Winners' Cup, will be playing in Group A alongside hosts Al Ahli, Al Mustaqbal of Tunis and Qatar's Al Arabi. Group B includes titleholders Olympic of Morocco, Al Shabab of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait's Al Qadisiyah and Rafah of Palestine.

Judging by the results of the respective teams, Al Faisali are favoured to advance to the semifinals as they seem to have the easier group. Al Arabi are last in Qatar's championship and Al Mustaqbal are not among the top six in Tunis.

During the past season, Al Faisali came in third in the Kingdom's first division championship after clinching the trophy for two consecutive years and setting a record for their 25th first division crown. They also hold the



Al Faisali

record for eight Jordan Cup titles.

Al Faisali had a training camp in Syria in preparation for the championship where they had two matches against Himik Club, a top-ranked team from Ukraine, who were on a visit to the Syrian capital. Al Faisali won 2-0 and drew 1-1. Al Faisali's second lineup also had a friendly match with Syria's Al Wihdeh.

The team's ace striker Jiryes Tador who missed most of the training as he was not fully recovered from a torn ligament injury may miss the opening match if not all. The initial lineup is likely to include Anis Shafiq, Muhannad Mahadin, Firas Khalil, Mousa Awad, Subhi Suleiman, Subhi Awad and Jamal Abu Abed.

## OneAustralia abandons plans to salvage boat

SAN DIEGO (R) — OneAustralia's plan to salvage its capsized, multi-million dollar boat, sails and mast, was abandoned on Monday.

The cost of the salvage and the substantial damage likely sustained by the boat that sank during racing on Sunday rendered the attempt senseless, race organisers said.

Ross Bowler, a leading boat designer from Bruce Farr International, estimated the boat would have hit the bottom of the ocean at 12 knots.

The reason for the failure of OneAustralia, which disappeared from view in about two minutes once it snapped in adverse winds and rough seas, can now only be pieced together through photographs, video footage and testimony of the crew.

OneAustralia's request for a bye from Monday's race against France 3 was refused by the international jury. The team, which had already clinched a berth in the semifinals, will spend the rest of round four re-adjusting its first generation boat and will not race again until the semifinals.

The teams it was scheduled to race in the remainder of round four — France 3, Sydney 95 and Tag Heuer Challenge — will have to sail the course on each race day to score their five victory points.

A double blow to the syndicate is that the boat sank with 11 of the 35 racing sails allowed to the end of round four — sails which represent months if not years of research and fine tuning.

## Trail Blazers, Sonics lose

CHICAGO (R) — B.J. Armstrong was on, and the Portland Trail Blazers were off, adding up to a 20-point win for the Chicago Bulls on Monday.

Armstrong, who finished with 27 points, one below his career high, scored eight consecutive points during a decisive 12-0 second-quarter run as the Bulls ripped the Trail Blazers 103-83 for their sixth straight home win.

Portland made just 7-of-20 shots in the second quarter, getting outscored 31-17.

"Me, personally, I just had it going tonight," Armstrong said. "I tried to be aggressive out there on the floor. Outside of our defensive rebounding, we played a very solid game, a good game overall for us."

Scottie Pippen and Toni Kukoc added 15 points apiece for the Bulls, who have not lost at home since January 24.

"We did shoot better tonight, which is so important for our game," Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "Obviously, the game was a real scrum out there with the way Portland was shooting out there, and boards were tenuous for us."

Otis Thorpe scored 21 points and Jerome Kersey added 14 for Portland.

The Blazers shot just 38.6 per cent from the floor (32-of-83) and committed 16 turnovers.

"I'm not being smart or taking anything away from the Bulls, but we didn't play hard or well and it was a very poor exhibition of basketball," said Portland coach P.J. Carlesimo. "I'm not just criticising the players, I'm including the coaches in on that."

Portland's Rod Strickland, who had missed two of the last three games with a bruised shoulder, finished with 12 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

In Seattle, Tim Hardaway's 3-pointer with 66 seconds to play snapped a tie as the Golden State Warriors edged the SuperSonics 106-103, snapping a six-game losing streak.

After Shawn Kemp missed a free throw to keep the game tied at 97-97, Hardaway's 3-pointer gave Golden State the lead for good with 1:06 to play.

After Hardaway's 3-pointer, Seattle missed four

3-pointers attempting to tie the game — one by Sam Perkins, one by Nate McMillan and two by Gary Payton.

Seattle's last chance to tie came in the final seconds when Payton stole an in-bounds pass, but McMillan missed a 28-footer as time expired.

Hardaway finished with 31 points despite an ailing left wrist, which he will have examined in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Latrell Sprewell added 26 points, including 12 from the foul line, and Victor Alexander netted 17 for Golden State, which won at Seattle for the first time since March 17, 1992.

Detlef Schrempf scored 23 points and Payton added 19 for Seattle, which lost for the third time in 24 games against sub-.500 teams.

### RESULTS

Chicago 103, Portland 83  
Golden State 106, Seattle 103  
L.A. Clippers 101, Minnesota 88.

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### TEACHING POSITIONS AVAILABLE M.M.S.

The Modern Montessori School invites applicants for teaching positions for grades 1-7 for the scholastic year 1995-96. Applicants should have one of the following qualifications: A minimum of a B.A. or a B.Sc. in one of the following subjects: English Language (Native Speakers) - Arabic Language. Science (both languages) Social Science (both languages) Mathematics (both languages) Music. A minimum of two years experience is required. ★ Applications should be submitted before Thursday March 16th, 1995. ★ Applicants are required to submit a detailed CV along with the application.

★ Applicants will be received daily (except Fridays) between 3-6 p.m. in the school premises in Khaldi, opposite King Hussein Medical Centre, Tel. No. 865831.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## S. Arabia: No threat from Iran missiles

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia is not concerned by Iran's reported deployment of anti-aircraft missiles at a strategic point in the Gulf, the defence minister, Prince Sultan, was quoted Tuesday as saying. "I think that there is no real escalation with respect to the missiles that Iran is said to have deployed on its shores," Prince Sultan said, according to the official Saudi Press Agency. Washington last week reported an Iranian buildup of Hawk air defence missiles on islands in the Strait of Hormuz, gateway for a substantial share of the world's daily oil needs.

## Japan to go ahead with Iranian loans

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan will not change its plan to extend the rest of its 150 billion yen (\$1.58 billion) loan package to Iran despite U.S. opposition, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Tuesday. "I've told President Clinton that it was important to give support to Iranian pacifists. There are groups seeking peace in Iran and we must not isolate the country," Mr. Murayama told reporters.

## Arafat to attend Copenhagen conference

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was scheduled to attend the UN Summit on Social Development in Denmark after a stopover in Morocco, a Palestinian official said Tuesday. Nabil Abu Rudeina, spokesman for the Palestinian Authority, said Mr. Arafat would meet King Hassan II of Morocco on Wednesday to discuss bilateral ties. He was then to fly Wednesday to the Danish capital for the U.N. summit, which is aimed at finding ways to combat poverty in the Third World.

## Rubinstein refuses lie detector test

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's ex-cabinet secretary and chief peace negotiator with Jordan has refused a routine polygraph test for his new job as the army's legal adviser, the Jerusalem Post reported Tuesday. Elyakim Rubinstein has cited article II of Israel's basic law which protects human dignity and freedom in refusing to submit to the lie detector. He was told that even the military chief of staff and secret service chiefs take the test. Mr. Rubinstein's stand is likely to lead to a reexamination of the obligatory test for sensitive posts, the daily said.

## Yemen explosion kills one, injures 44

ADEN (R) — A 20-year-old woman was killed and 44 people were injured in Yemen when a government dyn mite depo exploded, an Interior Ministry official said. The official, quoted by Yemen's SABA news agency said the explosion occurred on Monday due to the improper and prolonged storage of dynamite at a roadworks department warehouse in the Red Sea province of Al Hodeidah. The explosion damaged neighbouring homes and triggered a fire which was later contained, the agency added.

## Visitor pokes doctor's eye in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A man poked a doctor's eye with a pen for preventing him from seeing a patient at a Kuwaiti hospital after visiting hours, newspapers reported on Tuesday. Al Seyassah daily said the 21-year-old visitor stuck his pen in the eye of an Egyptian doctor who had repeatedly asked him to leave, inflicting "permanent damage."

## Saudi opposition reports arrests

NICOSIA (AP) — Saudi Arabian authorities have launched a new detention campaign of prominent scholars and theologians in Mecca and Riyadh, an opposition group said Tuesday. The London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights said in a statement that the crackdown took place Sunday following dawn prayers, but did not give a total figure of detainees. Among those arrested in Mecca, were Sheikh Mohammad Al Qabani, identified as a writer and theology instructor at Umm Al Qura University, and Sheikh Mohammad Ben Said Al Qabani, a religious figure, the statement said. In Riyadh security agents apprehended Said Ben Za'ir and Sheikh Bishr Al Bishr, professors at Al Imam University, it said.

## Top Islamic leader jailed in Belgium

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Ahmad Zaoui, one of the top European leaders of Algeria's most radical Islamic group, was among those arrested in a Belgian police swoop, legal sources said here Tuesday. Mr. Zaoui, who is aged around 35, is considered by Western intelligence services as one of the most important Islamic extremists operating in Europe. He was among nine people arrested during the operation last Wednesday by Belgian secret police to smash a network of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA). All nine are being held in Forest prison in Brussels and could face expulsion, the sources said.

## China rules out defence deal with Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — China has ruled out following its fellow permanent members of the Security Council in signing a defence agreement with Kuwait, a Chinese diplomatic source said Tuesday. Minister of Defence Sheikh Ahmad Al Hamud Al Sabah will pay a six-day visit to China at the end of the month. "China might only sign a military cooperation document with Kuwait... we never sign defence agreements with a foreign country. This is against our constitution and policy," the diplomat said.

## Iranian warden denies Arad held in Tehran

TEL AVIV (AP) — The chief warden of Tehran's central prison has denied that missing Israeli airman Ron Arad is being held there, an Israeli reporter said Tuesday. Hussein Pishva, head of Evin prison in the Iranian capital, was asked by reporter Menashe Amir of Israel Radio in a rare interview about claims by former German inmates that Arad was there as recently as January. "There was no such a thing. He was never here," Mr. Amir quoted Pishva as saying in the telephone conversation Monday which lasted for several minutes and was conducted in Farsi. Mr. Amir, who works for Israel Radio's Farsi language service, said he telephoned the prison four times before Mr. Pishva agreed to speak with him. Mr. Pishva's decision was unusual considering Iran's hostility toward the Jewish state.

## Banned Israeli party holds meeting in Knesset

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Militants from the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement have met in the Israeli parliament, deputies said Tuesday. Kach leader Baruch Marzel, who is supposed to be under house arrest, and his spokesman Noam Federman were invited to the Knesset by extreme right-wing Mokedet Party deputy Shaul Guttman on Monday. Parliamentary Speaker Shevah Weiss said it was "unthinkable" that members of the outlawed group had been allowed into the Knesset and ordered a security inquiry.

## Eleven car thieves to hang in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — An Iraqi court has sentenced 11 car thieves to hang as the authorities crack down on a crime wave sparked by the crippling effects of U.N. sanctions, the official press reported Tuesday. Eight were condemned for trying to steal two government cars which they planned to sell abroad, the daily Al Jumhuriyah reported. Three others are to hang for stealing two private cars. The ruling Revolutionary Command Council has given courts the power to impose severe punishments, including amputations for thieves, in a bid to curb spiralling crime.

## Iraq accuses U.S. of stirring clashes with Kurdish rebels

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Tuesday accused the United States of stirring up an outbreak of fighting with Kurdish guerrillas to torpedo its attempts to win a lifting of U.N. sanctions.

Newspapers ran banner headlines accusing the Americans of "manipulating their agents in the north to carry out attacks on our army units."

A military communique said the army's Fifth Division had driven back an attack by fighters from Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of the two main parties in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

It said the PUK attacked the unit on Sunday night but was driven back and suffered several casualties.

Northern Iraq has been controlled by Kurds in defiance of Baghdad and with allied protection since a rebellion after the 1991 Gulf war.

The army accused "members of the American intelligence service who went to the region in February" of instigating the Kurdish operation.

Iraq has denied reports from the Kurdish opposition that it had massed its forces near the region controlled by the Kurds and that the forces were shelling Kurdish towns. "The United States 'spreads fabricated reports and provokes problems aimed at diverting world public opinion from the suffering of the Iraqi people' every time the U.N. Security Council is due to review sanctions imposed on Baghdad after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the army said.

"We do not rule out the possibility of a continuation of these attacks in coming days. Our troops are in their defensive positions and have not crossed the lines" of the fighters, it added.

The Security Council is to

hold its two-monthly review of sanctions on March 13, and Washington's U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said that the United States had mustered enough support to block any easing of sanctions, but would be prepared to use its veto if necessary.

President Bill Clinton had authorised her to state plainly that Washington would do its utmost to stop any "prematuring" move to allow Iraq to sell oil, she said. (see related story on page 2).

The state-run Iraqi News Agency meanwhile said that Iraqi military officers "do not rule out" further attacks by the Kurds "in order to serve American objectives."

It was the first time Iraq has confirmed its involvement in warfare in the Kurdish enclave.

Last week, Kurdish sources reported what they called the beginnings of an Iraqi onslaught following months of fighting between Kurdish factions for control of the self-ruled area.

A PUK radio station in the north accused the Iraqis of mounting an attack early Tuesday morning on the group's fighters, the "Peshmerga," in Erbil province.

"After a heroic confrontation, the valiant Peshmerga forces repulsed the enemy's attack, exploited its retreat to inflict heavy losses on it, and purged some positions that the enemy forces had entered," the radio.

The radio station said Kurdish fighters seized seven high-caliber guns, an armoured transport, three machine guns, 100 Kalashnikov rifles, 200 rocket propelled grenades and a large quantity of artillery shells.

Kurdish rebels and regional experts have warned that Baghdad may launch an offensive against the Kurds.

U.S. Christians assail Israeli steps in Jerusalem

WASHINGTON (R) — Eight U.S. Christian leaders including the president of the National Council of Catholic Bishops on Monday urged the Clinton administration to press Israel to stop annexing Arab land in Jerusalem.

In a statement that angered U.S. Jewish leaders, the eight asked to meet President Bill Clinton and urged him to place the question of Jerusalem higher on his agenda.

"In contravention of international law, more and more land is taken out of Palestinian hands and placed under Israeli control by annexation, expropriation and private purchase, often coercive or of questionable legality," the statement said.

U.S. Jewish leaders said they were surprised and saddened by the statement. Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, said: "This statement harms the many advances that have been made in Christian-Jewish relations. I am disappointed that it was issued without proper Jewish consultation."

He added the statement also undermined the peace process in which both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreed the status of Jerusalem was

an issue to be resolved at the end of the negotiating process and not to be raised at this time.

Signing the statement were Cardinal William Keeler, president of the U.S. Catholic Conference and Archbishop of Baltimore Edmond Browning, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church Bishop Herbert Chilstrom of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, Metropolitan Philip Saliba of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Kara Newell, executive director of the American Friends Service Committee and Robert Seiple, president of World Vision.

In a separate statement Bishop Keeler said he wanted to meet Mr. Clinton "for the sake of the Christian population of Jerusalem and the region, whose historic presence has dwindled so dramatically in recent years."

The Christian leaders did not acknowledge any special Jewish or Israeli role for Jerusalem saying Israel's claim to sovereignty preempted genuine negotiations.

From Michael Jansen in Nicotia

IN AN address to a seminar on "Europe and the Middle East: Interdependence and Partnership," organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, which opened yesterday in Cyprus, Israeli Knesset member Eli Dayan said that Palestinian elections could be "held this year," but only "without re-deployment" of Israeli occupation troops.

There could be no Israeli military pullout from West Bank towns and villages, in accordance with the provisions of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule agreements, because the Palestinians could not guarantee the "personal security" of individual Israelis.

"Personal security" is he asserted, "the main obstacle" to reaching peace with the Palestinians. "Without facing this problem of personal security we will face deadlock with the Palestinians," meaning that the Palestinians must accept to hold elections while the Israeli army re-



ENVOYS MEET: Jordan's Ambassador-designate to Israel Marwan Muasher (left) speaks with his Israeli counterpart Shimon Shamir on the fringes of a ministerial-level Arab-Israeli meeting on the repatriation of displaced Palestinians. The two ambassador-designates have not yet assumed office (Photo by Yusef Allan)

## Somali leaders agree to reopen port, airport

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somalia's two most powerful warlords have agreed to the reopening of Mogadishu's port and airport, both now occupied by militias, it was reported here Tuesday.

Somalia's self-styled president, Ali Mahdi Mohammad, who controls north Mogadishu, agreed with south Mogadishu warlord Mohamed Farah Aideded to reopen the seaport on Thursday, a member of a joint port committee said.

The port is occupied now by General Aideded's men, but is within range of the guns of Mr. Ali Mahdi's forces, who control most of the adjoining neighbourhood of Bermuda.

Mr. Ali Mahdi's radio station said his militias would join Gen. Aideded's men at the port, quoting the north Mogadishu warlord as saying they were "ready to be summoned at any moment."

Sporadic shooting erupted in Bermuda Monday night, but no casualties were reported and the radio stations of both sides urged militias to respect a peace agreement the two warlords signed on Feb. 22.

U.N. troops, who arrived here in late 1992 to halt looting of food going to famine victims and to try to bring peace to this Horn of Africa country, pulled out last Thursday under the protection of 2,000 U.S. and Italian marines on shore and 8,000 troops from six nations aboard a 23-vessel armada.

They took all the essential port and airport equipment with them, promising to return it once competent authorities were in place.

A Feb. 22 pact between Gen. Aideded and Mr. Ali Mahdi, which came too late for a U.N. deadline, formalised an agreement to establish joint committees to run the port and airport, which had been under the control of U.N. troops.

Many people had expected

looting and fighting over the two facilities to break out after the departure of the U.N. forces, but there have been no major incidents since U.S. and Italian marines covering the U.N. evacuation withdrew on Friday.

Several peace pacts between Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aideded in the past few years came to nothing because of the enmity between the two men, contributing to the failure of the U.N. mission.

Mogadishu businessmen have meanwhile established a committee of their own to run the port which they say is independent of the factions, but will collaborate with the committee set up by Gen. Aideded and Mr. Ali Mahdi.

The businessmen's committee will hire cranes and other equipment to offload vessels now waiting offshore, one of its members said.

Gen. Aideded's men occupy the eastern section of the airport, while Mr. Ali Mahdi's militias occupy the west. They clashed Friday, shortly after the U.S. and Italian marines pulled out after exchanging fire with Somali gunmen.

No date was given Tuesday for reopening the airport, which would allow expatriate aid workers to return to the country.

They withdrew from Mogadishu before the U.N. troops left amid expectations that the militias would fight for control of both the port and airport and fears that this might reignite wholesale clan warfare in a country where hundreds of thousands have died in fighting over the past four years.

Fierce fighting between supporters of Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aideded after the 1991 overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre reduced Mogadishu to ruins and split it into two parts — the north controlled by Mr. Ali Mahdi and the south by Gen. Aideded.

Another speaker at the public opening session was the vice president of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, Luis Maria de Puig, who admitted that the council had been "somewhat late" in organising its North-South Centre in 1990. "If we don't aid the development of the South, we will have a massive migration" from the economically deprived Mediterranean basin into the developed countries of the north, creating "a very grave situation," he said. So far, he stated, a "dialogue has been realised" and "we are beginning to cooperate, little by little."

Aristos Pavlides, vice chairman of the economic affairs committee, said that it had been agreed to hold a preparatory conference in Rhodes for a major conference before the end of the year. The aim of the Jericho conference would be to acquire the Palestinian situation and to come up with concrete projects which would both demonstrate Europe's interest

## Al Bilad plans to sue minister, official

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The publisher of Al Bilad weekly, Nayef Al Tourah, said Tuesday he intends to take Minister of Information Khaled Al Karaki and Director of the Press and Publications Department Mohammad Amin to court for "arbitrarily using the law."

Mr. Tourah said he plans to sue the government for what he says were arbitrary measures and procrastination tactics used against Al Bilad, which was suspended two weeks ago along with another weekly, Hawadeth Al Sa'ah, because their chief editors were not full members of the Jordanian Press Association (JPA).

Mr. Tourah claimed that Dr. Karaki and Mr. Amin were implementing the law in an arbitrary manner. He said he had already nominated two new candidates for the post of chief editors but both were rejected.

"Each time they come up with a different excuse," Mr. Tourah said. "They are exerting all kinds of pressure against us because we are an opposition paper."

Mr. Amin, however, dismissed the charges.

He said Al Bilad first nominated Samira Awad but that her application was not complete. He said she lacked a certificate from court testifying that she had no criminal record. The certificate she provided was outdated, Mr. Amin said.

Mr. Tourah's second nominee, Maher Abu Teir, works for other newspapers and could not be considered as a full-time employee qualified for the post of chief editor, as the law stipulates, Mr. Amin said.

But Mr. Tourah said he did not accept Mr. Amin's explanations. He said the minister and Mr. Amin were putting pressure on the newspaper to force it to stop its publication.

Mr. Tourah claimed his newspaper lost up to JD30,000 in the past two weeks. He said he had received assurances that the issue would be resolved peacefully and quickly. The newspaper last printed on Feb. 27.

Mr. Tourah said he would file another case against the two officials to compensate for the losses. The publisher of Hawadeth Al Sa'ah, Riad Al Hroub, who said his newspaper lost JD20,000, said he would also press charges if the issue was not resolved soon.

Dr. Hroub said he also nominated four journalists for the post of chief editor, but all were rejected for different reasons.

Al Bilad and Hawadeth Al Sa'ah used to print at Al Dustour's printing facilities. But the two weeklies' publishers said Al Dustour stopped printing the papers after they received a letter from Mr. Amin informing them of the illegal status of the two tabloids.

Both publishers said they were not able to print their newspapers anywhere else.

The two weeklies claim they have wide circulation

(Continued on page 7)

## COLUMN

## Boston College cancels award to Thatcher

NEW YORK (R) — Boston College, one of America's leading Catholic colleges, Monday cancelled a planned award to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher after protests from the Irish-American community. Officials at Boston College told Reuters it had cancelled the award after a call from Lady Thatcher's office saying she would be unavailable on the date of the award. "She gave no reasons as to why she would be unable to attend," college spokesman Doug Whiting said. The planned award had sparked widespread criticism among Irish-Americans and last Friday New York Cardinal John O'Connor joined the protests expressing "perplexity and deep concern at the plan." Irish talk show host Adrien Flannely, a leader of the Irish-American community, told Reuters Boston College had scrapped its plan to give Lady Thatcher its Ignatius Medal on May 5, the 14th anniversary of the death of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands.

## Angry parents kidnap teacher

MONTELLIER, France (AFP) — A posse of parents incensed that their children's teacher was transferred and not replaced stormed into her new school and brought her back by force, education authorities said. Marie-Laure Puder, 35, a substitute teacher at the Bani School in this southern French town, was held for three hours while parents negotiated with authorities, who eventually agreed to find a replacement. Ms. Puder had been moved to another school in the district Friday to stand in for a sick colleague. On Monday four fathers from Bani school drove over to her new school and ordered her into their car. They drove back to the Bani school, where around 15 other parents were protesting at the education authority's failure to find a full-time replacement for their children's former teacher. Banner-waving parents occupied the school office and started negotiations with the school authorities. They let Ms. Puder go at midday after the authorities promised to send a replacement Thursday.

## Teacher gags child for clapping

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — A nursery school teacher bound and gagged an asthmatic four-year-old boy because he was making too much noise clapping his hands. The school in the central England town of Birmingham confirmed that the teacher bound Nathaniel Thomas' hands and covered his mouth with tape. The teacher has apologised to the boy's parents and the school is to discipline him, education authorities said Tuesday. The boy's father, Dean Thomas, is seeking legal advice. "It all began because he was clapping in class. He was playing up in the nursery unit like all the children but he is only four years old," Mr. Thomas told reporters. "The teacher could have punished him in many other ways, such as make him stand on his own in the corner. My son is asthmatic and this could have triggered a reaction."

## Arizona couple wins \$101.8m

PHOENIX (AP) — An Arizona secretary and her painter-husband stepped forward Monday to claim the multistate powerball's second-largest lottery jackpot at \$101.8 million. Shirley and Don Pence matched all six numbers Saturday, but their identities weren't immediately known. The Phoenix couple said during a news conference they will retire on their winnings. "We've both worked hard all our lives and now we don't have to. I guess that means the most to us," said Mrs. Pence, who works for an insurance company. "I guess it hasn't sunk in yet." The couple bought the ticket at a 7-eleven convenience store in North Phoenix. The jackpot is the second-largest powerball haul for a single-ticket winner. The largest was \$111 million won by a Wisconsin teacher in 1993. In lotteries overall, the largest jackpot is \$118.8 million won in California in 1991.